

Hesperocichla
naevia

SB 97.41.9 (2)

Berkshire Co., Mass.

Turdus naevius

1884

July 4.

I have before me the skin of a Varied Thrush from the collection of F. H. Carpenter with data as above. It is also marked ♀ but this is certainly a mistake for the color and markings are those of the ♂ in its second year. The plumage is perfectly fresh and unworn and - the date of its alleged capture aside - indicates a bird shot in late fall, winter, or early spring. The feathers of the crown, back and black breast-collar are all tipped

with brownish or olivaceous - not
more so however than in one
of my Oregon ~~flavescens~~^{flavus} killed
April 30th. The flanks are also
brownly tipped with ash olive.
The dark breast collar is
black & broad, the bawny-
rufous below clear and deep.
On the whole it seems to
me hardly possible that the
bird can have been shot
in July as claimed by
Mr. Carpenter.

The measurements of this example are as follows:

King, 4.98; Tail, 3.40; Culmen,

Trans. 1.28

Admiral fr. feathers 80; fr. nos. 60

THE VARIED THRUSH.

This is one of the most beautifully plumaged and pleasing songsters whose presence and notes affect the wild woods in the lower Frazer valley, in British Columbia. In size it is about the same as the Hermit Thrush, and its song notes closely resemble those of the *mustelinus*, but to me these did not appear to be so loud or prolonged, yet, as the season was still early, and before the nesting period had begun when I had the pleasure of listening to its lays, it may be that, as the Varied Thrush season advances, it pitches its notes in a higher key, and devotes more time and energy to the emission of its charming music, and, while the ear is delighted with its song, the eye of the student of nature who rambles in these primeval wilds, which it makes its haunts and home, is no less pleased with its varied plumage of dark brown and golden yellow. And when to these natural advantages of song are added its graceful movements among the deep green foliage and snowy blossoms, which in the early summer intermingle in the Columbian forest, it may be imagined that this species is among the most noteworthy of all the *ceifanna* families west of the Rocky Mountains.

The tourist, whatever be his object, who suddenly finds himself in the woods bordering the streams or wave-washed shores of the Pacific Coast of our western province, is at once astonished at the different appearance of his surroundings to what he had previously observed nearer the Atlantic sea-board. The woods, the rocks, the mountains, have all a different aspect, even the air has a different smell, and for a time produces different effects on the physical system and impressions on the mind, and many of the birds whose forms meet his gaze and music falls upon his ear, have differently hued plumages, and notes.

Favored by a rich soil and temperate climate, giant firs raise their waving tops to an altitude surpassing those in most other lands; monster cedars rival these in tallness and trunk proportions; balsams and other evergreens, though much smaller, nevertheless standing close together, cast a deep shade on the damp earth, from whence spring, while intermingling with these, species of white wood, alders, and large flowering dogwood, which altogether make a forest so dense that it can scarcely be penetrated, and few attempt to do so except on matters of business. It is late in the forenoon before the sun's rays penetrate these gloomy woods, and though out in the clearing the heat is at times oppressive, yet in these shades there is always a coolness, though the wind's influence is seldom felt and storms cannot rage, while in most places, as the spring and summer advances, the ground is covered with mosses intermingled with plants and flowers of varied and beautiful

hues. Amid such scenes are the haunts and home of the Varied Thrush, and should it appreciate views of scenery, which perhaps it does, it has only to move a short distance from the deepest shade to the lakelet shore, the river bank, or the margin of the rippling brook, to view the azure sky, the noonday sun, and the dark outlines of rock-formed mountains whose summits are capped with eternal snows.

Such feeble outline of some of the localities affected by the presence of this species may assist in conveying to the mental vision of the reader ideas not otherwise attainable, yet inseparable from its life history, and should the eastern reader wander on a summer morning in some dark wood, and hear in the higher branches the song notes of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak and the Scarlet Tanager, and in unison with these, in the lower woods, the soul-inspiring lays of the Wood Thrush, he may without much stretch of the imagination assume that he is passing through a part of a British Columbian forest and listening to the musical strains of the Black-headed Goshawk, the Western Tanager and the rather melancholy refrains of the Varied Thrush.

Among the vines and bushes, as well as the ferns, flowers and mosses, this species finds the berries and lower forms of animated existences, as its daily needs require.

Its nest, of which I saw a few specimens of the past year, is composed almost wholly of mosses, lined with lichens and other soft, dry materials. This is placed in bushes, or among branches not far off the ground, or in much similar situations as that of the Hermit Thrush. The eggs, four or five in the set, are of a bluish hue, mottled with reddish brown spots. This species, known also as the Varied Robin and Oregon Thrush, is reported to be more abundant on the sea-shore, where it remains throughout the year, than further inland, and here among the stunted firs, rocks and sands it finds a scenery much different from that of the more inland valleys, as well as the effects of the sea-breezes and the rolling waves. In the museum at Victoria I saw some fine, mounted specimens, and in the deep woods near Port Kells its songs strongly reminded me of the Wood Thrush of Ontario; but under the circumstances the effects were more melancholy than pleasing.

Wm. L. Kells.
O. & O. Vol. 17, Mar. 1892 p. 40-41

Mimus
polyglottus

Mimus polyglottus

1891 Mass.

April 5

Belmont. - On the Pratt Place, nearly opposite the lodge on the Payson place, I saw a Mockingbird this afternoon at about 5 o'clock. He was sitting on the top of a brush heap near the road and I mistook him at first for a Shrike, but a moment later he jerked up his tail in the characteristic Mockingbird fashion and flew into a hedge of arbor vitae. I followed and he next flew up into an elm alighting in the middle of the thickest branches, hopping from twig to twig continuously elevating & depressing his tail. He then flew across a field to another elm, moving his wings in the loose, butterfly-like way so often employed during the mating season. My horse now became impatient and I returned to the road. The bird was evidently a male although he did not sing. He was apparently shy or perhaps merely restless. All all events I did not succeed in getting nearer than about 30 yds. My identification, however, was absolutely satisfactory in every way.

" 13

After repeated fruitless visits in the interim I found my Mockingbird again this morning. I first heard him singing as I was driving past the ^{Payson} lodge at the entrance to the oyster-shell drive. I turned into this drive, walking my horse & stopping frequently to listen. The singing continued but seemed a long way off. Suddenly, however, the bird started from an apple tree behind the tall hedge on my right and flew across the drive way into the pear orchard on the left where he alighted on the ground and hopped about for some time foraging for worms or grubs of which he pulled up several. One large white grub gave him much trouble. He worked over it at least a minute, dropping it on the ground and hammering it with his bill, then taking it up and shaking it. After reducing it to a sufficiently pulpy condition he swallowed it.

He finally flew up into ~~and~~ a hedge of Norway Spruces and

Mimus polyglottus

1891 Mass.

April 13
No. 2.

Belmont. - alighting on the topmost spray of one of the trees began singing, at first loudly and energetically, afterwards rather feebly and listlessly. He continued in song with no marked interval of silence for fully ten minutes. I sat within 20 yds. and noted the following imitations:

Carolina Wren. song - given once

White-eyed Vireo " " " The song of the Southern bird

Blue Jay (?) bell-note (?) " " Not very good, in fact of doubtful identity.

Bluebird - Song once, song, fall-note, and chatter consecutively over. All perfect

Pewee (Sayornis) - Song three times, ~~between~~ two or three notes each time - perfect

Wood Pewee. Chuckle note three times, over succeeded by the pee-e-e. "

Summer Tanager (P. rubra) Chuckle note seven times - perfect

Sparrow Hawk. Chattering cry (cla-cla-cla-cla) five times. Perfect.

All this happened about 9 A.M., the morning cloudless and deliciously warm with moderate W. wind. Half an hour later I returned with Faxon. After some trouble we found the bird again. He flew from the pear orchard into a cluster of arbores & larch in the triangle at the fork of the woods opposite the road and sat for some time high up in a larch allowing us to drive directly under him. He then returned to the pear orchard and perching on the top of a pear tree sang for about a minute. Some men were at work pruning the trees within 20 yds. of him. He seemed very tame to-day. Finally he flew off towards the back part of the orchard and we lost him.

" 14

Reached the Payson place at sunrise and searched, watched and listened until 9 A.M. but no traces of *Mimus*.

" 24

During the past week I have driven through the Payson place nearly every pleasant morning. The Mockingbird is certainly there no longer. Either he has been killed or he has departed.

Mimus polyglottus

1893 Moor.

Feb. 14

Duxbury - One of Mr. Hoffmann's correspondents reports a Mockingbird at about time & place. Its occurrence at this date proves that the species can endure practically any amount of cold and snow for the winter has been the worst here that we have had since 1857. It is believed that nearly if not quite all our Lark & Meadow Larks have perished.

Wintering

Nov. 1

Canton - "On Nov. 1st I walked within ten feet of a Mockingbird in the opening of the woods back of our house. I did not shoot it as it was unquestionably a Mockingbird, probably a cage bird since it allowed me to come so close." (J. H. Bowler in letter Nov. 12, 1893.)

Ludlow near

1896

Springfield - "A Mockingbird paid us a visit this summer."

(Robert O. Morris letter June 15, 1896)

"It was observed for several days about the East of May" (R. O. M. letter Aug. 4, 1896)

1897.

Springfield. "A male Mockingbird has, for the past few weeks, stayed in our neighborhood in the suburb of Springfield. He is in full song, but no nest has been found, nor has a mate been seen. He persistently chases the Robins that come near him. It has been suggested that this might be with loving intentions being without a mate and longing for one. To me this does not seem probable."

(Robert O. Morris, letter July 1, 1897.)

Nov. - ?

Longwood. A ♂ that had spent most of the autumn in the Back Bay Park was shot by Harry Greenough & exhibited at Wetland Club meeting by Reginald Heber Howe.

Mimus polyglottos.

Milton, Vermont.

1897.

" The curator of the State Museum tells me that reports have reached him of the Mockingbird nesting here, but that I think may be an error."

Extract from letter from S.O.Brush, Sept.18, 1897,

Milton, Vermont. .

Boston Stock Exchange,
EXCHANGE BUILDING,
53 STATE STREET,
BOSTON.

[Oct (about 18th) 1874]

My dear Will

For the past two days there has been a Mocking-bird on our place at Milton, and I write thinking you might like to come over and see him, if you have time. This morning he was sitting on the topmost branch of one of our cherry trees and I think that I have never heard so fine a songster. I have heard him imitate the Roblin, King-bird, Robin, Blue Jay, Barn Swallow, Meadow Lark and several other birds. He is so tame that I think he must be an escaped cage-bird. If you can come let me know what train, and I will meet you, if it is this or tomorrow afternoon. A heart

Sincerely Yours,
Roland Haywood

Cambridge

June 7, 1895.

Dear Brewster

I enclose the first 18 pages for your criticisms and should be glad if you could get Faxon to read them too. I wish you could devise a better title-page; I am far from satisfied with it and don't see how to make it right.

I will send more proof in a few days. Wheeler is really pushing things.

How much of a record is a nest of Mimus polyglottos in Massachusetts within a few

miles of the New Hampshire
line? Ought I to inconvenience
myself in order to take it?

First proof of the plate has
come and is not bad.

Yrs. C. F. B.

Some new records for Nova Scotia.

Mimus polyglottos. MOCKINGBIRD.—A young male in juvenal plumage was captured September 3, 1902, "hopping about a woodpile." It is the second from Sable Island (see Auk, XIII, 1896, p. 344) in this plumage.

—JONATHAN DWIGHT, JR., M. D., *New York City.*

Auk, XX, Oct., 1903, p. 440.

Auk, XX, Oct., 1903, p. 440.

Birds of Ontario, Canada,
by James S. Flahung,
Part II, Land Birds. Hypothetical List.
Auk, XXI, Jan., 1907, p. 88.

30. *Mimus polyglottos.* MOCKINGBIRD.—The Hamilton record given by Mellwraith⁴ is not altogether satisfactory, and Mr. C. W. Nash, who was familiar with the time and place of the record, is doubtful if the bird was correctly identified. ⁴*Ibid.*, 284. *Birds of Ontario*, 1886.

Amk. XIII, Oct., 1898, p. 344.

The Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottus*) in Canada.—A young Mockingbird taken in the fall of 1894 and sent to me from Sable Island, Nova Scotia, constitutes the fifth record of this species for Canada. The other four are so scattered and have been so often incompletely quoted it seems worth while to review them here. They stand as follows:

I. Strathroy, Ont. (Strathroy Age [newspaper], July 1, 1880; Forest and Stream, XV, Aug. 26, 1880, p. 67; Bull. N. O. C., VI, 1881, p. 112). A single bird was seen in the town but not captured.

II. Chatham, Ont. (Morden and Saunders, Canadian Sportsman and Naturalist, II, Nov. 1882, p. 184; Chamberlain, Cat. Canadian Birds, 1887, p. 110; McIlwraith, Birds of Ontario, revised ed., 1894, p. 388; Piers, Trans. N. S. Inst. Nat. Sci., I, ser. 2, pt. iv, 1895, p. 409).

In point of time, 1860, this is the first Mockingbird taken in Canada. Mr. Edwin W. Sandys, who originally furnished the record, was recently seen by the writer, and he tells me the bird was secured by his father and is now in a collection of stuffed birds made by him. It was seen perched on the ridge pole of a barn one June morning just after a warm southerly gale, and its rich song was what first drew attention to it.

III. Hamilton, Ont. (McIlwraith, Birds of Ontario, 1886, p. 284, revised ed., 1894, p. 388; Chamberlain, Cat. Canadian Birds, 1887, p. 110; Piers, Trans. N. S. Inst. Sci., I, ser. 2, pt. iv, 1895, p. 409). A pair of birds spent the summer of 1883 at East Hamilton.

IV. Truro, N. S. (McLennan, Orn. and OöL., XIV, Aug. 1889, p. 126; Piers, Trans. N. S. Inst. Nat. Sci., I, ser. 2, pt. iv, pp. 408-410). A bird was wounded and caught alive July 1, 1889. It showed no signs of being an escaped cage bird. Then it was put in a cage, where it lived for three years when it died and was thrown away.

V. Sable Island, N. S. This is a young bird in much worn first plumage, taken in the fall of 1894. I have been unable to obtain any information about the specimen except that it did not come to the island in a cage, and we can only assume it was carried thither by some resistless storm, perhaps from the mainland or more likely from some far more southern home.—JONATHAN DWIGHT, JR., *New York City*.

Correspondence.

Editor O. & O.:

I believe that it may be worth recording that on July 1st I took, at Truro, a Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottus*), a male, I infer from his persistent singing.

I first observed him Sunday, June 30, and watched him all the afternoon to see if there was a pair of them. The locality is intervale with a few elms and several small clumps of bushes, so I had every chance to discover another if it was there. Being convinced that he was alone I started to bag him at 4 o'clock A.M., next morning; could hear him before I reached the intervale, and in a few minutes shot him from the top of a tall elm. He came down and I found that I had knocked about quarter of an inch off of his upper mandible, and with this exception he was apparently unhurt.

Of course my first thought was that it was possibly an escaped cage bird, but a moments examination showed that the idea was unfounded, as his plumage was perfect, wings and tail unchafed, and feet and claws clean and unmarked by the perch as cage birds always are.

I see by "Coues' Key" and "Birds of New England" that this capture places the Mockingbird further north than any recorded.

I could not kill him when I found how little hurt he was, but put him in a cage where he is at present, and seems likely to live and become reconciled to his new quarters.

143. Mocking Bird in Canada. *Ibid.*, XV, p. 67.—Record of its appearance at Strathroy, Canada, on the authority of L. H. Smith, in the Strathroy "Age."

For. & Stream

Chuck-will's-widow and Mockingbird
in Ontario. James H. Fleming, Toronto
Ontario. Chuk. XXIII, July, 1906, p. 343-344.

For Mockingbird see note under
Chuck-will's-widow

O. & O. XIV, Aug., 1889 p. 126

Chatham, Nova Scotia, July 8, 1889. Chas. A. McLennan

The Mockingbird at Portland, Maine, in Winter. — On January 19, 1897, at noon, a Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) appeared in a gutter which runs beneath the south window of my study. The thermometer was below zero, and there was no snow, but an unclouded sun had softened the ice in the gutter so that the bird could moisten his tongue; and this he seemed to be doing when I first saw him. He was perhaps

five feet distant from my chair, and I noted at once that he looked like a wild bird, his ruffled plumage being in perfect condition, unfrayed and unstained. In a moment he caught sight of me and flew away.

A heavy snow-storm set in the next day. It was followed within the week by another. Wintry weather prevailed generally up to January 29. On that day I was told by a neighbor — Edward Woodman, Esq. — that he believed a Mockingbird had been visiting his grounds for several days. There, on January 31, I saw the bird again. He was rather shy and quite silent, and soon flew away.

I published a notice of this interesting winter visitor in the Portland 'Daily Press' of February 2, hoping, if he were an escaped cage bird, that the fact would thus be brought out. Nothing, however, was elicited. Enquiries of local bird fanciers also failed to lead to the knowledge of any lost pet bird.

I now met with the wanderer nearly every day. About three o'clock of the afternoon of February 11, the sun shining warmly in a still, crisp air, he took up a position in the top of a tall elm. before the same window from which I first saw him, and sang loudly for a few moments when he was apparently frightened away by passers-by. On February 15, I saw him for the last time, feeding on the berries of a mountain-ash. Four days later, — just one month from his first appearance, — Mrs. Charles J. Chapman, a neighbor and an entirely competent witness, reported to me that he had that morning visited her grounds in search of mountain-ash berries.

I have been able to find but one previous record of a supposed wild Mockingbird in Maine, — a very indefinite note by Mr. G. A. Boardman in the 'American Naturalist,' Vol. V, April, 1871, p. 121. It is this note, apparently, to which reference is made in 'New England Bird Life,' Vol. I, p. 62. — NATHAN CLIFFORD BROWN, Portland, Me.

Aug. XIV, July, 1897, p. 324.

Reappearance of the Mockingbird at Portland, Maine. — On March 6, 1897, just after my note¹ on his previous visits had gone to press and more than a fortnight after his last appearance up to that time, the Portland Mockingbird was seen by my mother in the woodbine on her house. I was at once sent for to make the identification certain. I had no difficulty in doing so, for he stayed quietly for a long time in the top of a small tree close to the house. A period of eighteen days followed during which he was not to be found, though I looked for him constantly about the city and its suburbs. On March 24 he was seen by Mr. Charles E. Noyes, who reported him singing. On March 28 he was seen by Mr. W. H. Dennett, and was carefully studied through an opera glass within a distance of some thirty yards. On neither of these occasions was he more than an eighth of a mile from the spot where he first appeared in January. Finally, on April 4, I met with him again myself, this time in an old and little used cemetery in the same section of the city as before. I walked within a few yards of him, and watched him for several minutes while he disputed with some Robins the right to a cluster of sumacs, the fruit of which had no doubt helped to carry him through the winter. Up to the present time (June 1), I have neither seen him nor heard of him since. If he stayed no later than April 4, he passed nearly eleven weeks in the neighborhood of Portland at the most inclement season of the year.

— NATHAN CLIFFORD BROWN, Portland, Me. ¹ Aug. XIV, pp. 224-5

Notes on New England Birds.. G. H. Mackay

5. *Mimus polyglottus*. MOCKING-BIRD. — A young male, evidently a wild bird, was shot by Mr. Mackay at Nantucket, October 8, 1878.

(Communicated by Brewer)

Am. N. O. C. 4, Aug. 1879, p. 64.

Mass.

1889

Aug 12

While at Nantucket Monday August 12, I drove out to see if there were any birds. On the outskirts of the town a Mockingbird flew across the road. I endeavored to shoot him, but he flitted about so among the houses that I was unable to do so without the risk of putting a charge of shot through some window, and he succeeded in escaping. It was apparently a wild bird of the year. At times I was within ten yards of him. --- George H. Mackay, letter of August 14, 1889.

Cape Cod, Mass., 1880. G. S. Miller

Mimus polyglottus.—On September 11 I saw a single bird of this species near Highland Light. The bird was very shy and I was not absolutely sure of my identification until the next day when I saw two more, one of which I secured. Several others were seen at about the same time and place by Mr. W. M. Small of Highland Light. The specimen taken is in first plumage, though fully grown and evidently old enough to have come from some distance.—G. S. MILLER, JR., Cambridge Mass.

Am. N. O. C. VII, Jan., 1891, p. 119-120.

Mimus polyglottus. MOCKING BIRD.—On November 20, 1890, while driving on the western part of the island, and passing near a large swamp, close to which was an unoccupied farmhouse, I saw a Mockingbird running along the ridge pole of one of the small buildings. On getting out of my wagon to secure it, the bird flew into the middle of the swamp and perched on the top of a bush in full sight. Although a very difficult matter, owing to the water, I determined to go in after it. I had just started, when the bird flew towards me and alighted on a fence post, from which I shot it. This is the *third* instance of my shooting this bird here, besides seeing another flitting among the houses in the town on August 11, 1889. These birds were all full-grown, and probably migrants, as I have never heard of their breeding on the island. They have never before to my knowledge been noted here.

Am. N. O. C. VII, Jan., 1891, p. 120. George H. Mackay, Nantucket, Mass.

Mimus polyglottus

Captures in Mass.

Mr. H. K. Job shot a Mockingbird to-day in the garden of his place # 1631 Tremont St.

Mr. Charles Lamb also took a fine, clear-plumaged specimen near Fresh Pond, Cambridge, , 1881.

*Boston, Mass.
Dec. 9, 1881.*

Birds near Springfield, Massachusetts.—Throughout the early summer of 1888, near the main highway between Springfield and Westfield, and in the immediate vicinity of three farmhouses, a male Mockingbird remained, singing incessantly. This year at exactly the same spot the bird has again appeared. Although I have never seen the female, still there is very little doubt that there is one there and that they bred there last year and are doing the same this year.

Robert O. Morris.

Auk VI. Oct. 1889. p. 340.

The Mockingbird at Springfield, Massachusetts.—For the last three seasons a pair of Mockingbirds have located themselves at the same place in West Springfield. This year the male arrived from the South on the twenty-second day of April, but the female was not seen until about the first of June; they both departed early in August.—ROBERT O. MORRIS, *Springfield, Mass.*

Auk, VIII, Jan., 1891, p. 117.

General Notes. A pair of Mockingbirds, whose presence in West Springfield I have heretofore recorded, passed this their fourth successive season in the same locality in that town.—ROBERT O. MORRIS, *Springfield, Mass.*

Auk, 9, Jan. 1892. p. 74.

General Notes.

A Belated Mockingbird in Eastern Massachusetts.—On Nov. 25, 1894, I secured a male Mockingbird in good condition in a buckthorn hedge near my house. The weather was rough, with squalls of snow, but not cold. Previously, however, the thermometer had registered as low as 14°, with snow enough to make good sleighing.

The 'escaped cage bird' theory, which naturally occurs at once, does not apply here (unless braced up with a supplementary theory that the escape was remote enough to allow the bird to make himself over), the plumage and feet being in perfect condition.

There are quite a number of records for eastern Massachusetts, the latest appearing to be as follows: One reported by Torrey, Marshfield, Aug. 15, 1889 (O. & O., Sept., 1889); one by Miller, Provincetown, Sept. 11, 1890 (*Auk*, Jan., 1891); one by Mackay, Nantucket, Nov. 20, 1890 (*Auk*, Jan., 1891); one by Cory (young of the year), Hyannis, Aug. 30, 1891 (*Auk*, Oct., 1891). The first named is of special interest, being in the spotted plumage and accompanied by three or four others, a fair inference being that a brood had been hatched in the vicinity.

The breeding of the species farther west, near Springfield, has been a matter of several records, the latest, I think, being that of R. O. Morris (*Auk*, Jan., 1892), who says "a pair passed this, the fourth successive season, in West Springfield."

In view of the above, can we not abandon the cage bird idea for this section?—F. C. BROWNE, *Framingham, Mass.*

Auk XII, Jan. 1895 p. 84-85

Brief Notes

Mockingbird seen by E. J. Smith at Sherborn, Mass., October 23d, 1889. Showed no signs of confinement, though quite tame, allowing approach within a short distance.

O. & O. XIV, Nov. 1889 p. 176

Birds of Bristol County, Mass. F. W. Andros.

Mimus polyglottos (Linn.), Mockingbird. Accidental visitant. One shot by Mr. J. C. Cahoon on March 26th, 1883.

O. & O. XII, Sept. 1887 p. 141

Occurrence of the Mocking Bird in Massachusetts.

[Read before the Nuttall Ornithological Club.]

This afternoon my attention was called by a friend to a bird which I supposed to be a Shrike, sitting upon a cherry tree back of the house. While I was loading my gun the bird flew a few yards and perched upon a tree much nearer the building, which gave me an excellent opportunity to shoot from the window where I stood. After discharging the first barrel the bird flew, though it was plainly seen that he was badly wounded. My friend watched him closely, and saw where he alighted. I went in pursuit and the bird fell, and my surprise was great, upon looking at the specimen, to find it to be a *Mimus polyglottis*.

EMERY C. GREENWOOD,
Newtonville, Mass.

[This specimen was exhibited at a meeting of the Club and the members were of the opinion that it was not an escaped bird, as might be supposed, for the plumage was in good condition, and had not the worn look as is usual with caged birds. This is the second specimen taken within four months in the same locality, one having been shot by Mr. H. A. Purdie in November, 1874, and a specimen was also seen earlier in the season, near where the above mentioned specimens were taken. Another was seen in Salem, Mass., by Mrs. E. Harrington, in June, 1874.

RUTHVEN DEANE, Sec.]

Mocking Bird in Massachusetts in Winter.

About February 4, while looking for specimens of winter birds, I saw a strange bird that I had never before met with, but thought little of it until the 14th of February I shot the bird near the spot where first seen. It was a Mocking Bird (*Mimus Polyglottus*) which confronted me as I went to pick up my specimen.

The bird had lived here certainly for about two weeks without succumbing to the cold of this climate, which shows the bird can live here even in cold weather. The only way I can account for its being here at this time of year is that it must be an escaped cage bird. (The bird was identified by "Coxes' Key" and Stearns' "New England Bird Life.")

H. E. Barton.

Duxbury, Mass.

O. & O. Vol. 18, Mar. 1898 p. 45

Breeding of the Mockingbird near Boston, Mass.—On August 15, 1883, my brother, Mr. W. J. Townsend, shot two nearly full-grown Mockingbirds (*Mimus polyglottus*) at Arlington, Mass. He found them in a small thicket near a meadow, in company with an old one and two other young ones, which, however, he was unable to secure. The two he obtained were young birds, quite well feathered, their wings fully grown, but their tails decidedly shorter than in the adult. Later I made frequent excursions to the same and neighboring places, but did not succeed in discovering the rest of the family. On inquiry I learned that a farmer of the place, who had lived down in the South and was familiar with the Mockingbird, had seen one several times during the early part of the summer near his house, and heard him sing.

There seems, therefore, no reason to doubt that a pair of these birds bred at Arlington. Mr. William Brewster tells me there are no records of the breeding of the Mockingbird in Eastern Massachusetts, but the fact of their breeding several times near Springfield, Mass., is well known.—CHARLES W. TOWNSEND, Boston, Mass. Auk, I, April, 1884, p. 192.

General notes.

Another Massachusetts Record for the Mockingbird.—A specimen of *Mimus polyglottus* (Linn.) was shot by the writer at Great Island, near Hyannis, Mass., on August 30, 1891. The bird is in young plumage, still showing the spotted breast.—CHARLES B. CORY, Boston, Mass.

Auk, 8, Oct. 1891, p. 395

Editor of O. & O.:

I received your postal and will give you any information I can. On the afternoon of August 15, while riding through the town of Marshfield, I saw a bird fly from a tree, which from description, I judged to be a Mockingbird, and thus it proved. I immediately started in pursuit, and while climbing a fence three others started from some bushes ahead of me. I thought I saw another one to my left, but was not certain. They were rather shy and kept hidden in the bushes. I followed them, starting first one and then another, for some time, and finally obtained a shot at one and killed it. It was a young female, having the under parts speckled.

This bird as well as some of the others must have been reared near by there.

I will look sharp for them next season.

H. A. Torrey.

Rockland, Mass.

H. W. Marsden shot a Mockingbird at Quincy, Mass., Dec. 1. We personally examined it, and pronounced it not a cage bird. About the same time another was shot about twenty-five miles from this locality.

Dec. 24, Dec. 1890, p. 186.

N. Vickary, Lynn, Mass., reports

and a Mocking-Bird on April 4. The party who shot the Mocking-Bird reported that there was a pair, but he failed to secure but the one.

O. & O. Vol. 18, April, 1898 p. 51

O. & O. XIV, Aug. 1899 p. 144

Nesting of *Mimus polyglottos* in Eastern Massachusetts.—On June 3, 1895, while walking along a narrow country road in Groton, Massachusetts, my attention was suddenly attracted by the strange sight of a Mockingbird flying across an adjoining field. It alighted on a fence post near by, and, as I turned back to make sure that I had seen aright, my surprise was increased by the appearance of a second one. The two birds flew off together with such an evident air of being mates that I immediately began to look for a nest. The road was bordered on each side by a broad stretch of grassy fields, divided by rail fences: an eighth of a mile away it crossed a much travelled highway, strung along which a dozen houses could be seen; while at about the same distance in the opposite direction was the beginning of a large tract of deciduous woods. Besides these woods, there was hardly a tree anywhere near, save a few small apple-trees by one of the houses and one or two more—stunted, chance-sown seedlings—growing by the roadside. To one of the latter, a few steps away, I directed my search. In a moment I discovered a clumsily built nest a dozen feet from the ground, amid the thick foliage of a branch that overhung the road. I climbed the tree and, though I found the nest empty, I was rewarded by a scolding visit from the birds. When I came again on June 13 they gave me a still more unfriendly greeting though they were so wary that I obtained only the male to accompany the nest and four half-incubated eggs which I secured.

This locality, which is in the northern part of Middlesex County, hardly six miles south of the New Hampshire boundary, is the most northern point in New England where the Mockingbird has yet been known to breed, and the only one in Massachusetts, east of Springfield, where its nest actually has been taken. The only other recorded evidence I can find of the breeding of the species in eastern Massachusetts is based on two families of well-grown young, found, one at Arlington (Auk, I, 192), the other at Marshfield (O. & O. XIV, 144). In each of these cases the birds were not discovered until August 15, although it seems probable that they had been bred in the neighborhood.—CHARLES F. BATCHELDER, Cambridge, Mass.

Auk, XIV, Jan., 1897, p. 100

Unusual Visits of Birds in Western Massachusetts during 1896.

Mimus polyglottos.—For a few days during the last part of May a Mockingbird was observed in Ludlow.

Robert O. Morris,
Springfield, Mass.

Auk, XIV, July, 1897, p. 324

A Mockingbird at Worcester, Mass.—A Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) visited us at Worcester, Massachusetts, this spring. The bird was heard singing at Green Hill, April 26, was seen on the 29th, and continued in the same locality through the month of May. He sang well, imitating notes of the Blue Jay, Phoebe and Brown Thrasher.—HELEN A. BALL, Worcester, Mass.

Auk, XV, Jan., 1898, pp. 59-60.

Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) at Taunton, Mass.—Mr. A. R. Sharp of this city shot and presented to me a fine specimen of this bird

on Nov. 11, 1897. It proved to be a female in good condition and its stomach contained a number of seeds and part of the skin of a tomato. The plumage showed no signs of wear and tear which would brand it as an escaped cage bird.

It was killed just outside of this city near Mr. Sharp's farm, and was mistaken for a Shrike at the time.

This is very late in the season for a Mockingbird to be found so far north, yet I cannot think that it had recently been in captivity.—A. C. BENT, Taunton, Mass.

MINOR ORNITHOLOGICAL PUBLICATIONS.—365. *Rarer birds of Massachusetts.* By Arthur P. Chadbourne. *Quarterly Journal of the Boston Zoological Society*,† Vol. I, 1882, pp. 4, 5, 20-24, 30-35.—A list of about 80 species, with references to the original authorities for their occurrence. *Mimus polyglottus* is given as doubtfully entitled to a place in the list, "owing to many [of the specimens taken] being escaped cage-birds," the author having apparently overlooked the fact of its having been found breeding at Springfield (see Proc. Essex Inst., IV, p. 67). We may add that we are credibly informed of two later instances of its breeding at Springfield. *Cardinalis virginianus* is placed in the same category, but it is hardly "probable" that all the specimens recorded were escaped cage-birds. *Quar. Jour. Soc. Zool. Soc.*

619. *Mocking-Bird in Massachusetts.* By John C. Cahoon. *Ibid.*, No. 10, p. 185.—Taken at Taunton, March 26, 1883, by the writer.

1807. *Mockingbirds in Massachusetts.* By E. H. Lathrop. *Ibid.*, Oct. 3, p. 202. *For. & Stream, Vol. 32*

Auk, XV, Oct., 1898, p. 333.

Mimus polyglottus, ♀ in Bristol Co., Mass.

April 30, 1896, a Mockingbird appeared and established himself among the shrubbery in a neighbor's grounds. This was no escaped cage-bird, as his perfect, unfrayed feathers evinced. He was in constant song during his stay, frequently singing half the night when the moon was bright. After enjoying a week of Mockingbird music I was disappointed to find the singer gone, owing to a late driving snow storm, and he did not again appear. *B. F. Scudder, Taunton, Mass.*

Mimus polyglottus.

Record, Nov. 17, 1898, Belmont, Mass.
Oct. 26

Ralph Hoffmann, Belmont, Mass. *Auk*, XVI, April, 1899, p. 196.

u The Mocking Bird * 2477. *[In G. G. P. Soc. Rec. No. 4]*
Mr Lewis informs me was shot by him in what is now Franklin Park. The bird was feeding in a patch of rose bushes & briars and was in perfect condition the stomach being filled with the seeds of wild roses, dried berries etc. *(Fort H. Mockett, letter Feb. 17, 1896)*

Mimus polyglottus.

1899. Belmont, Mass. School St.

Mar 25.

Geo. C. Deane.

Telephone,
1310 Haymarket.

M. ABBOTT FRAZAR,

Taxidermist

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BOSTON, Mass. Oct. 18. 1899

Mr. Wm. Brewster,
Cambridge, Mass.

Dear Sir:-

I thought you might be interested to know that on Sunday the 15th., there was a mocking bird about my house* all the morning. I got a look at him several times. He made himself quite at home. I do not think it was a caged bird and by the notes it gave, I judged it was a male.

Yours truly,
M. Abbott Frazar.

*[Belmont]

#2477 Mocking Bird ♂
Roxbury Mass
A. J. Lewis
Dec
In N. E. Orn. Res. Soc. M. H.

A Mockingbird near Boston.—I observed a Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) at Roslindale, a suburb of Boston, March 23 of this year. I had learned of the bird's presence through Mrs. S. Stevens of Roslindale, who saw him first Feb. 27 and afterward several times during March. She last observed the bird March 27. When I saw him he was in full song and mocked with varying degrees of accuracy, the songs of the Bluebird, Robin, White-eyed Vireo and Bobolink, the long call of the Downy Woodpecker, and the *wick-up* call or song of the Flicker. I detected no hint of any domestic sound in his mimicking, and this, together with the fact that his tail-feathers were in perfect condition, suggest that he was a wild bird and not an escaped captive. This Mockingbird was very likely the same as the one observed on several different dates and in localities at some little distance from this by Dr. A. L. Reagh.—FRANCIS H. ALLEN, *West Roxbury, Mass.* *Auk*, XIX, July, 1902, p. 292.

1881

Mimus polyglottus

Cambridge

December 10

A ♀ shot by C. R. Bond
in Fresh Pond Grove. "She was
in good condition and from
the appearance of the gizzard
etc. had evidently been feeding
on the Black thorn berries
which grow in great abundance
there. I should the best
to Mr. Brewster and he
thought from the appearance
of its feathers it was not
an escaped cage bird."
Note from C. R. Bond.

1892

Mimus polyglottus

Maltham, Mass.

Apr. 7

"I saw the Mimus as recited. Could not de-
cide if he had been a caged bird having no
saline powder with me. The chap was singing
to beat (Louda's) band, alighting on Celtic Tree
etc. Then he thought M. C. P. was getting too
fresh! and took a long flight towards
Grattle St. H. A. Davis in letter, Jan. 17/03 to W. Brewster.
The note was repeated Rec. N. O. C. May 2, 1892.

1898

Mimus polyglottus

Belmont, Mass.

Oct. 4 Nov.

"Oct. 26, Oct. 27, Nov. 17, 1898. He was
seen by others on other days"
W. Faxon in letter, Feb. 20, 1903.

+ + +

Dear Listener—Your West Medford correspondent, "L. C.," who saw a hermit thrush on the vine over the porch of the house in the early forenoon of Jan. 24, will be interested to learn that another bird observer saw a hermit thrush on Jan. 21, in Olmsted Park. He was seen as he came on the wing to one of the little ponds, the water of which keeps open during the severest cold—sleak, quick of motion, picking at the water's edge, running on the snow, lifting the tail when stopping or perching on a nearby bough, silent but as animated as a hermit of the summer time in the Northern forests; the bird, presumably the same I had seen also on Dec. 19 and 23 in the same vicinity. We certainly have hermit thrushes wintering with us this severe season of 1903-1904. It is the more remarkable since careful observation of bird life in and about Boston during the last four winters has not before placed in my record the hermit thrush. This ice-bound season has been chosen by the species, therefore, to further establish Mr. William Brewster's statement, "Found several times in midwinter, near Boston." Other records of mine in December were: Stoneham, Bear Hill, Dec. 5; Malden, Pine Banks Park, Dec. 12; Longwood, Riverway Park, Dec. 30.

Your readers may also be interested to know that there is one other species whose presence with us may be even more surprising, the mockingbird. I have seen one in the same corner of Jamaica Park, Jan. 6, 7, 12, 13 and 23. It has, therefore, safely passed through nights of 12° to 15° below zero. Abundance of food is present in the berries remaining upon the shrubs. It is asked, is not this an escaped cage bird? It may be answered, would such a one survive the extreme cold of this month? Other mockingbird records, 1902 and 1903, have been: Melrose, Oct. 16, 1902; Duxbury, Dec. 20, 1902, and June 18, 1903, and, upon reliable authority, continuously resident from Oct. 5 to June 18 (later knowledge of it is not mine) on a rather bleak point of land jutting out into the marshes; the Arboretum, 1903, Feb. 26 and 27, March 2 and 6, April 21, singing, and seen by others repeatedly upon intervening and later dates; Nahant, Dec. 23, 1903. It seems hardly possible that these five mockingbirds were all escaped birds. On the other hand, it seems quite probable that most of them were never caged. Except in the case of the Duxbury bird, to which a friend conducted me, I came upon the birds unexpectedly in my walks. It would seem a rare experience if, under these circumstances, a single observer has fallen in with escaped birds only. The pleasant inference, which fairly may be drawn, is that the mockingbird is becoming more present with us than ten years ago. When Mr. Brewster appended this one of his many valuable footnotes to Minot's "Land Birds," one or two specimens have been taken in Massachusetts in winter.

The South and the North are met together in Jamaica Park this winter, for in close proximity to the mockingbird may be seen a flock of pine grosbeaks feeding contentedly on the berries and expressing the pleasure of companionship in soft, sweet tones, as they move through the shrubbery. Not far distant on Jan. 23 was seen another bird of the North, a snow bunting, upon the snowy roadway of the park, where he was intently occupied in picking up his noonday meal, merely avoiding the sleighs as they passed, and heeding them scarcely more than a house sparrow would. The dense fog of the morning no doubt gave him greater courage, and the complete envelopment of the landscape in snow and ice, as well as fog, must have been as congenial to him as would be Nahant or Ipswich. It

was my first record of a snowflake in the park, and it is to be credited to Brookline. It may be mentioned that a flock of robins numbering fifteen or more is frequenting the Arboretum, and that on Jan. 11 and 12 a Wilson's snipe made a brief visit there, finding the shallow run of water over unfrozen ground at the north gate adapted to the use of his long bill in probing for necessary food.

H. W. W.

Boston, Jan. 28. *Harold W. Wright*—
Last Sunday morning, it will be remembered, was quite warm and pleasant—one of the few days of the month of which as much can be said—and Mr. G. A. Spooner and a friend saw in Franklin Park a flock of as many as twenty-five robins, a dozen pine grosbeaks, all females, some downy woodpeckers, male and female, chickadees, juncos and bluejays. The woods seem to be full of them, and a bright day will bring some of them out from their refuges.

Boston Daily Transcript + Jan. 30, 1904

I have just seen a
mocking bird in Londer's
Lane!!! Mr. Wright dis-
covered it. A wild bird
to all appearance.

Feb. 26. [1903] G. E. F.

1904-5, Mimus polyglottos.
Wintered at Arnold Arboretum.

W. Faxon
Feb. 28. /05.

Unusual record near Boston Mass. —

Mimus polyglottos. One passed the winter in Jamaica Plain, Mass.
We last recorded it on April 6, 1904.

Francis G. and Maurice C. Reika, Brookline Mass.
Auk, XXI, July, 1904, p. 392

A Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) in Lexington, Mass., in Winter and Summer. — A Mockingbird appeared near my house in Lexington on the 8th of February, 1907, and was seen by me at intervals up to the 29th of March. On the 31st of March and the 4th of April a Mockingbird, doubtless the same one, was seen by several persons in another part of the town, about a mile to the eastward. He was neither seen nor heard again until the 9th and 10th of July, when he reappeared near my house. This bird sung at the end of March, early April, and on both the days when he was seen in July. He was an unusually fine singer, even for a Mockingbird. Among his very perfect imitations the notes of the Phoebe and Great Crested Flycatcher were conspicuous. The winter of 1906-07, it should be remembered, was an unusually cold one in eastern Massachusetts. — WALTER FAXON, Lexington, Mass. *Auk*, XXI, Oct. 1907, p. 446.

Mockingbird in West Medford, Mass. — From November 17, 1907, until April 20, 1908, we had a Mockingbird — *Mimus polyglottos* — on our place the greater part of each day, with few exceptions, feeding on suet, barberries and cedar berries. The bird, presumably a female, as it did not sing, scolded and drove away the Shrike, Jays, Cedar Birds and Robins. —

LESLIE E. BRADDER, West Medford, Mass.

Auk 25 July 1908 p. 929



NO ONE ABOVE IS RESERVED FOR POSTMARK

POSTAL CARD.

THE SPACE BELOW IS FOR THE ADDRESS ONLY.



Walter Faxon Esq.
Cambridge,
Mass.

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Wintered at Arnold Arboretum.

W. Faxon
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Near Boston, Mass.

Breeding of the Mockingbird near Boston.—A pair of Mockingbirds (*Mimus polyglottos*) nested near my house in the West Roxbury district of Boston this year (1909) and successfully raised a brood of four young, which when I last saw them were fully fledged and taking full care of themselves. One of the birds made its appearance near my house Nov. 22, 1908, and it (presumably the same one) was seen occasionally all through the winter. Up to April 2, 1909, only one bird was seen, and that one had advertised itself as a male by beginning to sing on March 21. On April 2 or earlier it was joined by a female, and from that time on the pair were often seen together, and the male sang assiduously. The nest, which when first discovered, May 20, contained four eggs, was placed about fifteen feet from the ground near the top of a Japanese conifer within about a hundred feet of my house. The young left the nest June 12, and I caught and banded two of them with the aluminum bands furnished by Dr. Leon J. Cole of the Peabody Museum, New Haven. The numbers of the bands are 1453 and 1460. I sincerely hope that neither of these birds will be shot by any ornithologist for the purpose of ascertaining the number on the band, and if any banded Mockingbird is seen in Massachusetts this fall or next year, I shall be grateful if the observer will communicate the fact to me (as well as to Dr. Cole) and will spare the bird's life.

I have been unable to find any more recent Massachusetts breeding records for this species than those cited by Messrs. Howe and Allen in 'The Birds of Massachusetts' (1901), though Dr. A. L. Reagh tells me that he is credibly informed that a pair of Mockingbirds built a nest and laid eggs in Roslindale, Boston, in 1902, the male being probably the bird observed by me near there March 23 of that year and reported in 'The Auk' (XIX, July, 1902, p. 292), but that the nest was broken up. The records include two sets of eggs taken, one in Springfield by Dr. J. A. Allen and one in Groton by Mr. C. F. Batchelder. The only cases where young birds have been found with their parents in Massachusetts, thus giving satisfactory evidence of a successful nesting within the State, are of two nearly full-grown young taken by Mr. W. S. Townsend at Arlington, Aug. 15, 1883 (C. W. Townsend, Auk, I, April, 1884, p. 192), and of one young female with speckled under parts shot by Mr. H. A. Torrey at Marshfield, Aug. 15, 1889 (O. and O., XIV, Sept., 1889, p. 144). The present instance seems to be the first to be recorded where the entire nesting has been under observation in Massachusetts.—FRANCIS H. ALLEN, West Roxbury, Mass.

Auk 26, Oct-1908, p. 433-434

Springfield, Massachusetts.

Mimus polyglottos. About the 20th of last November, a Mockingbird appeared in the residential part of Springfield, where the homes are surrounded by ample grounds, and in that vicinity made its home during the past winter. Very soon after it was first observed, food was furnished it and it became quite tame. So-called mockingbird food, rice, bread crumbs, and suet, were provided for it, which latter it seemed to prefer. During severe storms this bird would disappear for a day or two, but with the return of pleasant weather would again be seen. The suggestion that it was an escaped cage bird has not the force it would have had a few years ago, as in Massachusetts, we now have a generally respected law forbidding the sale or confinement of these birds. Mockingbirds have been frequently seen in the vicinity of Springfield during the warmer months, and have rarely bred here, but never before has one been known to pass the winter in this part of the Connecticut Valley.

In 'The Auk' for last October, Francis H. Allen stated that a pair of Mockingbirds successfully raised a brood of four young in the eastern part of Massachusetts, and this bird may be one of that family.—ROBERT O. MORRIS, Springfield, Mass.

Auk 27, Apr-1910 p. 226.

The Mockingbird near Boston.— In 'The Auk' for October, 1909, I recorded the breeding of a pair of Mockingbirds (*Mimus polyglottos*) in West Roxbury, Mass., last year. I have recently learned that a pair of these birds bred at Roslindale, about a mile and a half from this locality, in the spring of 1902. My informant is Mrs. Seriah Stevens of Roslindale, who published an account of the nesting in 'Zion's Herald,' a Boston Methodist weekly, for March 3, 1909. Mrs. Stevens assures me that the account there given is entirely true except as to the location of the nest, which was not on her own grounds, as stated for literary purposes, but elsewhere in the neighborhood. Four young were hatched, but when they were about half grown the mother bird was found dead near the nest. The male, however, brought up the brood and launched them from the nest. The father bird and two of the young were seen together near their old home as late as August of that year, but then disappeared and have not been seen there since. The male bird was the one recorded by me in 'The Auk' for July, 1902 (Vol. XIX, p. 292), as having been observed by me on March 23 of that year, and this is the reported unsuccessful nesting referred to in my note of last October.

In this connection I wish to report that the male which bred near my house last year remained in the neighborhood all the autumn and winter and began singing March 21 of this year, the exact anniversary of the beginning of his song the year before. He sang finely and imitated the notes of many birds not due to arrive here for a month or two later. In fact, he introduced imitations which I had not heard from him last year, exhibiting what seemed a remarkable memory for bird-notes. He sang every morning near the house for four weeks, but his mate never arrived and after April 19 he gave it up. I saw him once or twice afterwards and heard of him a few other times, but since about the middle of May he seems to have disappeared entirely. Another Mockingbird was seen in the Arnold Arboretum, about two miles and a half away, in winter and early spring by several observers. He sang freely in April but not very well and seemed not to imitate the notes of other birds. He was believed to be a young bird and very possibly was one of the brood raised by my pair. This bird also disappeared without having found a mate. All this goes to support the view held by Mr. Brewster (Birds of the Cambridge Region, pp. 62-64), that birds breeding beyond their normal range are unlikely to found permanent colonies of regular summer residents.

— FRANCIS H. ALLEN, *West Roxbury, Mass.*

Auk 27, Oct-1910 p. 460-461.

A Pair of Mockingbirds near Boston in 1902.—Concerning the note in the October 'Auk' of 1910 entitled: "The Mockingbird near Boston," signed by Mr. Francis H. Allen of West Roxbury, I would say, that in 1902 a pair of Mockingbirds (*Mimus polyglottos*) built two nests within sight of my home in Roslindale. The male was constantly under our kitchen windows. He entertained us the entire summer, not only with his singing, but also by his gymnastics while doing so. He would frequently light on the ridge-pole of my neighbor's house, and vertically bounce up and down, five to ten feet, singing all the while. He would do this frequently eight or ten times in succession. I first noticed the male when the apple trees leaved out, but neglected to record the exact date.

Shortly afterward he was joined by a female. They built in a large white oak tree situated midway between Congress and Fletcher Streets on Center Street, Roslindale.

The nest was quite high up. Four young were raised, but were presumably stolen by a laborer who was working on a sewer, then in construction, on Center Street. When the young were about to leave the nest, one of my sons heard the man in question say, that he was "coming out early to-morrow morning and take those birds." As the nest was empty on the day designated, it is quite probable he succeeded in doing so. The parent birds were inconsolable for a time. Soon, however, they built again; this time low down in a golden elderberry bush which grew, within twenty feet of the house, on the front lawn of one of my neighbors. Here three young were raised and successfully launched from the nest. I saw two of the young birds killed by neighbor's cats. This same fate overtook the mother.

One day while sitting on my piazza, I saw in the vacant lot opposite, a cat spring into a hollow apparently in the act of catching a bird. Hearing the great distress of the male mockingbird directly over the hole, I ran to the place, but alas! too late. The cat bounded away but in her fright dropped the bird. Immediately picking it up, I recognized the still beautiful though lifeless mate of the distracted father who was hovering over me.

The father mockingbird and one of the young were constantly seen about the neighborhood until autumn, when they probably went South. In passing, I may say that it was this particular pair of mockingbirds which first incited me to the study of bird life. Whether the pair of mockingbirds described above are the pair referred to by Mrs. Seriah Stevens or not I do not know, but I have never heard of other than this pair nesting in Roslindale in 1902.—JULIA WINGATE SHERMAN, Roslindale, Mass.

1911.
Auk 28, Jan. 1911, 116-117.

Mockingbird Notes from Massachusetts.—On October 23, 1911, I took at Nantucket a young Mockingbird, and at the same time I saw the two parent birds. There is no doubt from the condition of the plumage that this bird was bred not far from the spot where it was taken.

Mr. Francis H. Allen recorded in 'The Auk' (Auk, XXVII, 1910, p. 460) a pair which successfully raised a brood of four young near his house in West Roxbury in 1909, one of the parent birds having been seen off and on from November 22, 1908, the other parent bird was first seen early in April, and the birds were last seen August 8. A Mockingbird was seen in the same locality October 7, 1909, to May 14, 1910, November 6, 1910, to April 14, 1911, and again November 5, 1911; this was presumably the same bird.

Mr. Horace W. Wright reports seeing Mockingbirds in the Parkway near the Longwood railway station several times in the winter of 1910 and the spring of 1911; three if not four birds were seen repeatedly. These birds were also seen by Mr. E. E. Cadue and other observers. None of these birds was seen after the middle of April. Dr. Charles W. Townsend reports seeing a Mockingbird at Ipswich August 26 and 28, 1910. Mr. Winthrop S. Brooks saw a pair at Manomet, Plymouth County, on December 14, 1911. One of these, a female, he shot and gave to the Boston Society of Natural History. These records show that the Mockingbird is more common in Massachusetts than is generally supposed.—THOMAS S. BRADLEE, Boston, Mass. Auk. XXIX. Apr. 1912. p. 249.

Notes on a Massachusetts Mockingbird.—The notes on the Mockingbird, published in a recent issue of 'The Auk,' recall to mind some pleasant and interesting observations I made on this species in eastern Massachusetts a few years since. In looking over my notebooks I find under date of June 5, 1908: "An unusual bird visitor seen today. While working in the field my attention was attracted by the (supposed) note of the Crested Flycatcher. I was somewhat surprised to hear it, as this flycatcher is found here only in a few restricted localities. This being outside of the localities where usually found, I hastened to investigate and found that these notes, and a varied collection of others also, came from a Mockingbird. By good fortune he proved to be very approachable, affording a fine chance to see and watch him.

"He was for the most part singing all the time; a pause of a few minutes now and then, during which time he fed more persistently than when singing, although his time when in song, was not entirely devoted to that, but he was frequently changing his perch in order to catch some insect, but making no noticeable pause in song. Much the same style and manner as the Red-eyed Vireo in this respect. I do not know what the powers of mimicry may be for the average mocker but I should think that this one was more than ordinarily skilled in that difficult art.

"A multitude of call-notes and songs of the commoner birds, and some that I hear but infrequently, he ran over apparently as easily as the pianist plays the scale, and with perfect imitation. In many cases not even an acute and practised ear could detect a variation from the genuine. He seemed to be especially well skilled in the performance of the song or calls of the Crested Flycatcher, giving that peculiar inflection one notes in the whistle of this particularly interesting species. Again, without any apparent pause, he would be "whipping-poor-will" with spiteful accent or trilling the amicable "cheer-up" of the robin. The squall of the Blue Jay and also the Jay's more musical bell like note, were rendered with correct expression. The mew of the Catbird and the clicker of the Kingbird, the laughing call of the Flicker, and the Downy Woodpeckers metallic note, all these came in easier and quicker time than I can write. And so on throughout a long list of some twenty to thirty species.

"To me, unfamiliar with the mocker before, this was a rare treat. What his own individual song might have been I can only guess, but perhaps a rolling, lyrical song like that of the Brown Thrasher, which came in occasionally as an interlude in his long roll of imitations. No doubt, also, there may have been notes of several southern birds that we here in the north would not recognize, because of unfamiliarity with them; for his song was ever full and varied, shifting from one to another without any warning or apparent aim."

The following list, are species certainly recognized in his imitations:

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1. Blue Jay (two notes). | 16. Indigo Bird. |
| 2. Whip-poor-will. | 17. White-bellied Swallow. |
| 3. Kingbird. | 18. Scarlet Tanager. |
| 4. Crested Flycatcher. | 19. Red-eyed Vireo. |
| 5. Chebec. | 20. Yellow-throated Vireo. |
| 6. Phoebe. | 21. Summer Yellowbird. |
| 7. Wood Pewee. | 22. Maryland Yellowthroat. |
| 8. Red-winged Blackbird. | 23. Chickadee. |
| 9. Meadowlark (<i>Zee-co-p</i> note). | 24. White-breasted Nuthatch. |
| 10. Baltimore Oriole. | 25. Catbird. |
| 11. Downy Woodpecker. | 26. Brown Thrasher. |
| 12. Flicker. | 27. Wood Thrush. |
| 13. English Sparrow. | 28. Robin. |
| 14. Vesper Sparrow. | 29. Bluebird. |
| 15. Song Sparrow. | |

Besides the above there may have been, as I have previously stated, two or three southern bird notes that I am unfamiliar with. The twenty-nine named were clearly enunciated and readily identified.

This bird remained in the locality for nearly a week and was enjoyed by several persons interested in bird study.—S. WALDO BAILEY, *Newburyport, Mass.*

Arch. XXVIII, July 1911, p. 372-373.

Mockingbird at West Haven, Conn.—A Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos polyglottos*) appeared near the center of West Haven, Conn., on November 8, 1916, and has been observed almost every day up to January 22, 1917. It usually appears with a flock of Starlings. It pays no attention to food put out for the birds but prefers to eat the berries of the Bitter Sweet and Honeysuckle vines which grow along the fence. It does not appear to be wild as on two occasions I have walked under the apple tree in which it was perched.—N. E. WILMOT, *West Haven, Conn.*

Auk, XXXIV. Apr. 1917, p. 215.

Mockingbirds (*Mimus polyglottos polyglottos*) Spending the Winter at West Haven, Conn.—I announced in the April, 1917, number of 'The Auk' the presence of a Mockingbird in West Haven, Conn., from November 8, 1916, to March 24, 1917.

On July 17, 1917, the bird returned and is passing the winter at the same place. (January 20, 1918.) Last winter the bird would not take food put out for it but preferred to eat Honeysuckle and Bittersweet berries, but this winter it takes food put out for it and has become so tame as to alight on the windowsill and eat food. I have also observed it eating the dry seed pods of the asparagus which it swallowed whole as it does the berries of the Bittersweet.

On November 18, 1917, while at Colonial Park, a summer resort about two miles from West Haven, I observed another Mocker which was eating the berries of a Honeysuckle vine that grew along a fence. The extreme cold weather during the last few days of December and the first of January, I thought would surely kill our Mocker, but he came through all safe and seems none the worse. During that time the thermometer went as low as twelve degrees below zero, which proves that Mockingbirds are not altogether southern birds but can stand our northern winters. The plumage of this bird is quite different this winter, having a great deal more white in the wings and tail so I would judge that it was a young bird when it passed the winter of 1916 and 1917 with us.—NELSON E. WILMOT, *West Haven, Conn.*

Auk, Vol. XXXV, 1918, p. 229.

A Mockingbird in New Hampshire.—A Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos*) appeared near my home on the outskirts of Manchester, N. H., November 5, 1916, apparently accompanying a flock of Robins; and stayed in the neighborhood two days. It was seen by Mr. Lewis Dexter, and by a number of other bird lovers whom I was able to notify. It did not act like an escaped cage bird, as it did not care to have me approach closer than thirty or forty feet, although we could not rule out the possibility.

I have not seen a caged Mockingbird in this region for years.

Allen's 'List of the Birds of New Hampshire' mentions one record for New Hampshire and that is the only one I have been able to find.—
WILLIAM R. VARICK, Manchester, N. H.

Arch XXXIV. Jan. 1917. Pl. 91.

Mocking Bird at Newport, R. I.

EDITOR of O. & O. :—

While sketching along the Cliff Walk at Newport, R. I., a week or so ago (Nov. 2.) I was much surprised to see a mocking bird among the shrubbery. When first seen, it was perched upon the roof of a rustic arbor and singing in a low tone.

As I remained perfectly still, it was not alarmed, but when I made a sudden movement, it flew to a thicket near by, and the white of the tail, and wing-bars was very conspicuous. At one time I was not further than ten feet from the bird, and there can be no room for doubt as to the species.

Yours truly,
XIII, Dec. 1898 p. 112 HARRY GORDON WHITE.
Haverhill, Mass.

A Mockingbird in Rhode Island.—Miss Julia Herreshoff of Bristol, R. I., communicates to me the following in a letter dated November 8, 1910: "The Mockingbird came with the Blackbirds, first noticed March 12 (1910). He was near the house for a fortnight and then deserted his black friends for Robins and lived at the Old House (the Herreshoff home-stand next door). I did not see him after July 25 when tenants took possession. He was quite friendly though I think by his early coming there was no chance of his being an escaped cage-bird."—REGINALD HEBER HOWE, JR., *Thoreau Museum, Concord, Mass.*

Auk 28, Jan-1911, p. 116.

Nest of the Mocking Bird in Connecticut.

About the 20th of June the young man who carries the United States mail between Jewett City and Voluntown reported that he had found a bird's nest containing five eggs quite unlike any he had ever seen.

He described both the bird and the eggs as well as he could, and succeeded in arousing my curiosity. I asked him to bring me an egg, hoping thereby to determine the species. A few days later he informed me that the eggs had all been taken. Fortunately the bird was not easily discouraged, and very soon she commenced to lay a second set of eggs in the same nest. Saturday morning, June 28th, Uncle Sam's man found three eggs and brought me one. In color and markings it resembled the eggs of the Scarlet Tanager and

the Rose-breasted Grosbeak, but could hardly have been mistaken for either. After examining the egg I was exceedingly anxious to see the bird. As luck would have it I could not leave to visit the nest that day, so I notified my friend and sympathizer, Dr. Geo. H. Jennings, and he promptly sallied forth to make a "diagnosis" of the case and report. He found the nest in a blue-berry bush by the side of a rail-fence that separated the barren fields from the highway across "Pachaug Plains." It was composed outwardly of twigs and the dried stalks of field plants, and was very neatly lined with fine fibrous roots and horse hairs. The Doctor brought home one egg and gave a good description of the female bird. The male was nowhere to be seen. The intelligence gained from this reliable source made me still more anxious to see the bird for myself, but as her eggs had all been taken but one, I feared she would desert the nest and the locality before I could get time to go and see her. Monday, June 30th, the Doctor and I visited the nest together, and were pleased to find that she had laid another egg. She flew from the nest as we approached, and in order to get a good view of her we had to crawl on our hands and knees for quite a distance behind the walls and fences. She was very shy, and the male bird did not appear.

Feeling that we had before us a rare specimen, we went back to Pachaug and borrowed a gun with which we secured the bird. We also took the bush containing the nest and the two eggs.

After examining the bird carefully I felt quite certain that it was a Mockingbird. We found a brief description of *Mimus polyglottus* in "Minot's Land and Game Birds of New England," and as our specimens just filled the bill we entertained no further doubts.

This bird seemed much more beautiful when flying than any caged specimen that I have ever seen, her white wing-patches

and tail-feathers showing to excellent advantage. She had a curious way of tossing herself into the air when about to fly, and she would bound over the fields much like the Golden-winged Woodpecker. The only note we heard was between a squeal and a grunt, and cannot well be described.

Fearing that some expert ornithologist may think this a case of "mistaken identity," I will add that the bird was shown to a lady who has spent many seasons in Florida and she unhesitatingly pronounced it a Mockingbird.

July 3, I received from a friend in Deland, Florida, an egg of this species which was almost exactly like those that I collected. I experienced a great degree of satisfaction in writing to him that I had just taken a set of Mockingbird's eggs within four miles of my door. I would like to know if the Mockingbird has ever been known to breed in Connecticut before.—Chas. Edw. Prior, Jewett City, Connecticut. **O. & O. IX, Aug. 1884. p. 94-95**

Brief Notes.

NEST OF THE MOCKINGBIRD IN CONNECTICUT. Since writing about the Mockingbird's nest, I have learned that there are several other nests in the same locality, and that the birds were seen by many. A farmer's boy showed me two eggs that he collected, and he reported having seen

young birds. He showed me one of the nests, which was exactly like the one taken by Dr. Jennings and myself. Perhaps they will all come back to this region next season.
—C. E. Prior.

O. & O. IX, Sept. 1884. p. 115

Bird Notes from Long Island, N. Y.
William Dutcher.

25. *Mimus polyglottos*. MOCKINGBIRD.—Mr. Arthur Tepper, of Flatbush, Kings Co., brought to me a specimen of this species for identification, and informed me that it had been shot in his neighborhood, in the early part of November, 1884. He also stated that another one had been shot a short time previously in the same locality. On two other occasions he saw what he was positive were Mockingbirds, both being in the summer. Mr. Giraud says of it: "This unrivalled songster occasionally passes the season of reproduction on Long Island." *

* Birds of Long Island, p. 82.

Auk, V, April, 1888. p. 183

237. MOCKING BIRD.—(*Mimus polyglottus*.) Boie. A specimen of this bird, ^{Birds of Long Island} ~~new species~~ an adult male in full breeding plumage, ^{by Fowler, Wright} ~~by Fowler, Wright~~ was taken during the month of May, 1881, ^{at Rye Brook} ~~at Rye Brook~~ by John M. Manro at Throopsville, N. Y., a few miles from Auburn. This bird, now in his cabinet, was undoubtedly in its wild state, as it showed no traces of confinement. O. & C. VII, Jun. 1882, p. 132

INTERESTING BIRDS FOUND ON LONG ISLAND, N. Y.—*Mimus polyglottus*.—I shot a young Mocking-bird at Gravesend, L. I., on August 9, 1879, in such immature plumage as to render it probable that it had been bred in the neighborhood. I am not sure that this bird can be considered rare on Long Island though it is at least uncommon.

De L. Berier, Fort Hamilton, L. I.

Bull. N. O. C. 5, Jan., 1880, p. 46.

Birds observed in Naval Hospital
Grounds, Brooklyn, G. H. Coates

18. *Mimus polyglottus*. MOCKING-BIRD.—One specimen seen in 1877, which I unfortunately could not secure.

Bull. N. O. C. 4, Jan., 1879, p. 32

NOTES ON BIRDS RARE OR ACCIDENTAL ON LONG ISLAND, N. Y.—

1. *Mimus polyglottus*. MOCKINGBIRD. Two specimens taken: a young bird, on October 1, 1880; an adult on October 2, 1880; both captured at Fort Hamilton.

De L. Berier, Fort Hamilton.

Bull. N. O. C. 6, April, 1881, p. 125.

*Evidence of Gardiner's Fauna in Hudson Valley,
from observations made at Riverdale, N. Y.*

E. P. Bicknell.

Mimus polyglottis. MOCKING-BIRD. An individual of this species was seen on October 28, 1877, and on November 21, of the same year, a specimen was shot from a fence by the roadside, by a friend, and kindly presented to me. The bird had been observed near the same place on the previous day feeding on the berries of a cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*). It proved to be a female, and was in good condition, the stomach containing cedar berries, and also those of the common poke or pigeon berry (*Phytolacca*). I am aware of two specimens having been seen in the Central Park within the last few years, probably wild birds; and two have recently been killed on Long Island by Newbold T. Lawrence.*

* Forest and Stream, Vol. X, No. 13, p. 235, May 2, 1878.

Bull. N. O. C. 3, July, 1878, p. 129.

The Mockingbird at Barnegat, N. J., and on Long Island, N. Y.—On August 25, while in the vicinity of Barnegat, N. J., I was surprised to see a pair of wild Mockingbirds (*Mimus polyglottos*), and on inquiry I found a man who said he had heard a Mockingbird singing several times during the spring and early summer. On the following day I saw another Mockingbird, presumably one of those I had seen the day previous, as it was near the same locality.

On August 27, at Floral Park, L. I., I saw a strange bird light on the top of one of the full-grown maple trees that line the avenue along which I was walking. Before I had approached very near the bird again took wing and from the manner of its flight, its size, and prominent white patches upon its wing, I am confident that it was a Mockingbird. While the distance was rather great to identify it absolutely, I know of no other bird which could have shown such wing color, except the Red-headed Woodpecker, but its manner of flight was not that of the Woodpecker, and we certainly would not expect to see a Woodpecker perched on the top branches of a tree like a Robin.—JOHN LEWIS CHILDS, *Floral Park, Long Island, N. Y. Auk*, XVII, Oct., 1900, p. 390.

*Notes concerning certain birds of
Long Island, N. Y.*

by William C. Brewster, M. D.

Mimus polyglottos. A Mockingbird, in immature (breast-spotted) plumage was killed on Rockaway Beach Sept. 14, 1902, and kindly presented to the writer by Mr. Robt. L. Peavey of Brooklyn. Another was reported killed here two weeks previously.

Auk, XX, Jan., 1903, pp. 53.

Notes on Birds in vic. of Englewood,
N. J. by F. M. Chapman.

15. *Mimus polyglottos*. MOCKINGBIRD.—I take from my note-book the following record concerning the breeding of Mockingbirds at Tenaflly, N. J., three miles north of Englewood. These notes were given me by Mr. Martin, an old resident of the locality, and are corroborated by Mr. J. F. Paulison on whose lawn the birds were found nesting. After learning of their occurrence I visited the place on a number of occasions in what proved to be a vain hope of seeing these birds, but so far as known they did not return after the year 1885. Mr. Martin's story as I received it from him January 3, 1886, is substantially as follows: Ten or twelve years ago a pair of Mockingbirds appeared on Mr. Paulison's lawn, but a short distance from Mr. Martin's home; he watched their movements and discovered their nest, placed in an evergreen about ten feet from the ground.

When three eggs had been laid the female was killed, a few feathers found near the nest suggesting a cat as the probable murderer. The male, however, remained in the vicinity for several weeks, singing at times continuously for an hour or more; but apparently becoming discouraged at the non-appearance of his mate, he finally disappeared. Not another bird of this species was observed until May, 1884, when a pair was seen in the same garden and observed constructing a nest in a rose bush. Here they were undisturbed until their young, four in number, were nearly ready to leave the nest; these young were then taken and successfully raised in confinement. April 17, 1885, a Mockingbird, presumably the male, was seen in the same locality; later its mate appeared. The male was frequently heard singing, and although the nest was not found, young birds were seen, and there is little doubt that this time they succeeded in raising their brood. So far as I have been able to ascertain the birds have not been observed in the locality since this last-mentioned occurrence.

Ank, VI. Oct., 1889. p. 304 - 305.

Mimus polyglottus

1884
Feb. 28

Charleston, S.C.

Noted one feeding on the berries of a Pride of China tree. They are numerous & in full song in the country & many can be heard or seen in the gardens in the very heart of Charleston.

April 14, exceedingly abundant on James' Island, where there are a pair in every thicket.

Charleston, S.C.

Mimus polyglottus

1885.

May 2

An unusually fine singer perched on the top of a sapling near a negro shanty at Nine Mile Run mocked in quick succession Austrotonus carolinensis, Ceryle alcyon, Actitis bartramia, Coturnix quadrax and Lagotis fusca. In each case the imitation was simply perfect. It is the first time I ever heard the notes of the Austrotonus repeated by one of these birds.

1885

Beginning to sing
Coturnix alcyon

Mimus polyglottus

Heard a Mockingbird singing through the forenoon not continuously or strongly in good full tones. The day was warm but not warmer than several days that have preceded it. The past two weeks during which the Mockers have been absolutely dumb have for the smacking call note.

Birds Observed at Coosada, Alabama.
N. C. Brown

4. *Mimus polyglottus*, (L.) Boie. MOCKING-BIRD. — Abundant resident. I heard the first song February 25, — a week after the birds began to sing in Montgomery. Two weeks later I observed several pairs desultorily at work on their nests, but, with the exception of a single complement found on the 12th of April, discovered no eggs until about April 21.

After a brief sojourn at Coosada, I came to regard this bird with intense dislike, on account of its extreme quarrelsomeness. Those in the immediate vicinity of my lodgings were almost constantly employed in driving other birds from the neighborhood. Upon one occasion, a Robin sitting quietly in a tree over my head was so fiercely attacked by a Mocking-bird that he fell almost lifeless at my feet. A friend rescued him from further injury, and after the bird revived gave him his liberty; he had scarcely flown a dozen yards, however, before he was again savagely set upon by a Mocking-bird, and escaped only through his greater power of wing.

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Bull. N. O. C. 3, Oct., 1878, p. 169

Birds of Bayou Sara, La. A.
15-19 C. W. Beckham.

3. *Mimus polyglottus* (L.) Boie. MOCKINGBIRD. — Very abundant, both in the town about gardens and yards, and in the country. Frequenting open ground exclusively. Four sets of eggs were taken; two perfectly fresh, and two about half incubated. Mr. Wederstraudt called my attention to a curious foraging habit of this bird. We noticed one hopping along the ground in an open grassy place, pausing at every three or four hops to extend and close its wings. It repeated this several times until a grasshopper was flushed, when the bird immediately "reached" for it, and having captured it, made off to a neighboring bush to eat it. Mr. Wederstraudt says that he has observed this interesting performance many times.

Bull. N. O. C. 7, July, 1892, p. 160

Birds of Houston, Texas, and Vicinity - H. Nehrling

5. *Mimus polyglottus*, Boie. MOCKINGBIRD. — A very abundant resident. Only a few remain to winter, in protected localities; the majority migrate further south. They arrive from their winter quarters early in March and are by the end of that month again common. Nest-building commences usually in the middle of April. Many are killed by farmers and gardeners on account of their fondness for ripe figs and grapes. Besides insects, they feed eagerly on the berries of the poke (*Phytolacca decandra*), the elder (*Sambucus canadensis*), and the Mexican mulberry (*Callicarpa americana*). In winter the berries of the myrtle-holly (*Oreophila myrtifolia*) and those of the mistletoe (*Phoradendron flavescens*) are their principal food.

Bull. N. O. C. 7, Jan, 1892, p. 1

217. *Amphisp. nevadensis*.—A not uncommon migrant throughout the region and some probably winter on the plains about Tucson and south of that point. I have records of their occurrence in the Santa Catalina Range, altitude 3000 feet, in October and early November, and in March. It was common in flocks on the San Pedro River in March, 1885, at the mouth of Pepper Sauce Canon. [Of the four specimens sent, three are in adult spring plumage. One has the dusky streaks on the breast unusually broad and dark.—J. A. A.] 218. *Oroscoptes montanus*.—A common fall migrant in the Pinal Mountains; common migrant and winter resident in small numbers on the foothills of the Catalinas up to 3500 feet. My records of its occurrence are December, rare; January, rather common; February, common; March, abundant. In April they begin to leave, and I did not observe any during the other months of the year. 219. *Mimus polyglottos*. Mockingbird.—A common resident throughout the region up to an altitude of 3000 feet, but more abundant during the

(Continued from p. 56.)

With annotations by J. A. Allen.

BY W. E. D. SCOTT.

GILA COUNTIES, ARIZONA.

General Notes.

The Mockingbird in Wyoming.—During the afternoon of May 10, I was collecting birds among the stunted cottonwoods and willow brush of Crow Creek about two miles east of Cheyenne, when I drove out a large gray bird which appeared from a distance to be an entire stranger to me. I chased it down creek a quarter of a mile, when it doubled on me and went back to the place from which I at first flushed it. I was unable to get near enough to kill with No. 12 shot, but was compelled to use a charge of No. 6, and at a distance of sixty-five yards, while on the wing, brought down my specimen. The bird proved to be *Mimus polyglottos* in fine plumage. Continuing down creek another Mockingbird was flushed from the willow brush but was too wild for me to capture it that evening, although I devoted a full hour to the chase, following the bird for a mile or more. The next morning, the 11th of May, I visited the same locality and found my bird again, but only succeeded in shooting it after stalking it, antelope fashion, by crawling prone upon the ground for sixty yards through stunted rose bushes. I succeeded in getting near enough, however, to shoot the bird with No. 12 shot. I have mounted both birds and placed them in the Cheyenne High School collection.

On May 23 while collecting about a half mile below where these two birds were shot, I heard a singer which I at first thought was a Brown Thrasher, but on listening I heard strange notes and at once concluded it was another Mockingbird. The singer was located in a clump of willows about forty yards from the creek, and an equal distance from the nearest willow brush. I tried a charge of the small shot but did not reach him. He flew out and I killed him with No. 6 shot on the wing, the bird falling about seventy yards from where I stood. The individual killed on the evening of the 10th was a female and the other two were males. All were fat and their stomachs were well filled with worms and water grubs, larvae, etc. Their feet were perfect in every way, the claws being sharp and showing not the slightest indication of having grasped the perch of a bird cage; and besides, the birds were exceedingly wild and shy. Then again cage birds as rare as the Mockingbird is in this latitude, and especially locality, do not go about in flocks, so, on the whole, I am satisfied that the birds came north with a flock of Brown Thrashers with which they were associating at the time I found them. I am not at all familiar with *Mimus polyglottos*, but one feature presented by the specimens captured appeared a little odd. The iris of the female was brown while that of both males was greenish yellow, much like the iris of *Oroscoptes montanus*, but not quite so yellow.—FRANK BOND, Cheyenne, Wyoming.

219. *Mimus polyglottos*. MOCKINGBIRD.—A common resident throughout the region up to an altitude of 5000 feet, but more abundant during the spring migration and in the summer season. In the Catalina Range they are abundant at all times, save in midwinter, up to the altitude indicated, and breed in numbers, raising three broods of three to five young each, during the spring and early summer months. The first brood is hatched by late April or early May, and the final brood late in July or the first week in August.

In this connection some experience that I had with young of this species may be of interest. About May 20, 1885, I captured a young Mockingbird which could fly short distances pretty well. It was probably four weeks old. It soon became accustomed to the cage, which was a large one, and ate readily from the hand or from the feed cups. By the time it had become fully tamed, about ten days or two weeks after it was captured, two other young birds were obtained from a nest. They were pretty well feathered, but the tails and wings were not at all grown, and the little fellows knew nothing about feeding themselves. By this time the bird first captured was fully feathered and grown, being very like an old bird in everything save some details of plumage. The younger birds were put in the same cage with the one first captured. I fed the birds largely on grasshoppers, which were very abundant. From the time that the younger birds entered the cage, they opened their mouths very wide, and made a twittering sound whenever the older birds seized on one of the insects to kill and eat it. After the first twenty-four hours, the elder bird seemed to realize that certain duties devolved upon it, and began to feed and care for the younger birds with the solicitude of a parent. This was continued for a couple of weeks, when the small birds had learned to feed themselves. May not this be considered as either an instance of considerable mental capacity, or a strongly inherited parental instinct?

[Mr. Scott's series of seven adult birds are very much lighter above than specimens from the Atlantic States, with generally more white on the tail feathers, and always much more white on the wings, the white area on the inner primaries being one-fourth to one-third greater than in Florida and South Carolina birds. The white wing-bars are broader, the secondaries are much more broadly tipped with white, and the white is much purer; the primaries are *all*, in some specimens, narrowly tipped with pure white—a feature absent in the eastern bird—and the outer edge of all the remiges and greater coverts is more broadly bordered with a much lighter shade of gray. The throat is white, and the lower parts generally are of a much lighter shade. The white of the tail is a clearer, more snowy white—not silvery or grayish white, as is usually the case in eastern birds; the fourth feather often has a blotch of white at the end. The gray of the upper parts is very much lighter in the Arizona birds, this difference being a striking feature. In size and proportions there seems to be no tangible difference, the tail being not disproportionately longer in the western bird. This form is therefore not identical with the bird from Lower California Professor Baird at one time proposed to call *Mimus caudatus*, although this name has been used to designate the Mockingbird as found in Arizona (*Cones*) and Colorado (*Ridgway*).

Mr. Sennett's specimens from Texas agree very closely in general features with the Scott birds from Arizona.—J. A. A.]

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Auk, V. April 1888, p. 161

were fat and their stomachs were well filled with worms and water gnats, larvæ, etc. Their feet were perfect in every way, the claws being sharp and showing not the slightest indication of having grasped the perch of a bird cage; and besides, the birds were exceedingly wild and shy. Then again cage birds as rare as the Mockingbird is in this latitude, and especially locality, do not go about in flocks, so, on the whole, I am satisfied that the birds came north with a flock of Brown Thrashers with which they were associating at the time I found them. I am not at all familiar with *Mimus polyglottos*, but one feature presented by the specimens captured appeared a little odd. The iris of the female was brown while that of both males was greenish yellow, much like the iris of *Oroscoptes montanus*, but not quite so yellow.—FRANK BOND, Cheyenne, Wyoming.

ADDITIONAL CASES OF ALBINISM AND MELANISM IN
NORTH AMERICAN BIRDS.

BY RUTHVEN DEANE.

IN Volume I (pp. 20 - 24) of this Bulletin I gave a list of sixty species which were affected by albinism, either partial or complete, and five species representing a melanistic phase of plumage. Since then I have been enabled to add twenty-seven species to the list of albinistic birds, and one case of melanism.

In March, 1878, Mr. N. C. Brown of Portland, Me., saw a pair of pure white Mocking-Birds confined in a cage at Coosada, Ala.; they had been taken from the nest, and retained the snowy whiteness of their plumage. Mr. George A. Boardman of St. Stephens, N. B., writes me that he has in his possession a specimen of the Mocking-Bird which is nearly white, which he shot at St. Augustine, Fla.

Bull. N. O. C. 4, Jan., 1879, p. 27.

The Mockingbird as a Mimic.

BY H. R. TAYLOR.

It has somehow happened that in my researches in ornithological literature I have never met with a description of the Mockingbird's remarkable genius as a mimic, and so the other day, when I heard a wonderful medley proceeding from a cage by the window of a cottage, I stopped to listen and was richly rewarded for so doing.

As I had thought, the musician was a Mockingbird, and a better singer I never heard. The extent of his repertoire was something wonderful and he imitated the notes of some of our wild birds and domestic fowls with a facility

that surprised me. Song after song poured forth from his little throat without intermission, 'till he stopped for a moment's rest, soon to go on again as before with an almost infinite variety of notes.

A partial list of the birds and animals he so well imitated may prove of interest: American Goldfinch, Canary, Blue-fronted Jay, Parkman's Wren (song and scolding notes), Brewer's Blackbird, Humming bird, dog barking, Crimson House-lark, Turkeys and young, Hen clucking and cackling, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, young chickens, howling of a puppy, frogs croaking, rooster's crow.

The crowing of a rooster was of course in miniature but a charming imitation and it was always followed by an artistic little trill or flourish. It is but just to give this talented Mockingbird credit for his own music also, which was of great merit and should, I think, properly entitle him to the name of composer.

The lady who owned the bird soon observed my interest and kindly volunteered some information regarding him. He could imitate, I was told, almost any sound he heard. At one time the lady had a cough and was considerably annoyed to hear her pet mimicking her continually. The bird used to imitate a neighbor who whistled for his dog. The whistle was repeated so exactly by the Mockingbird that someone in the house would often remark, "there, Charlie has lost his dog again."

-O. & O. XIII, Aug. 1888 p. 117

Andros Island, Bahamas

John I. Northrop

AUK, VIII, Jan. 1891, p. 66-67.

3. *Mimus polyglottos* (Linn.).—Locally known as Brown Thrasher and Mocking Bird. My specimens were all collected near the northern end of Andros, the first on March 25, the last on April 16. They were quite common about our house at Nicol's Town, and their song could be heard at almost any hour of the day. It was loud and varied, each syllable usually being repeated three times. It often sounded as if they were trying to decline the familiar 'hic, hac, hoc' after a fashion of their own, and we imagined we could plainly distinguish 'hujus, hujus, hujus,' 'huic, huic, huic,' 'his, his, his,' given with great emphasis. While on the western coast in June, we noticed what was undoubtedly one of these Mockingbirds, perched on the top of a palmetto. He was singing, apparently with all his heart, and attracted our attention by springing up into the air a few feet, then dropping to his perch again. This he repeated three times, singing all the while; we afterwards saw another bird go through the same performance.

The stomachs of the specimens examined contained the remains of the fruit of the gum elemi (*Bursera gummifera*), white ants, and pieces of snail shells.

[The three specimens referred to this species are indistinguishable from *M. polyglottos* of the Carolinas or Florida. They are hence very unlike the small form of *Mimus* from Inagua, recognized by Mr. Sharpe as *M. elegans*.—J. A. A.]

The Singing of Birds. E.F. Bicknell.

Mimus polyglottos. MOCKINGBIRD.

I observed a Mockingbird by the Harlem River on October 10, 1880, my attention being attracted to it by a few notes of its song, which would doubtless have been continued had not the bird been startled. The species is of casual occurrence in the locality of my observations, but on no other occasion have I heard any sound from it save a sharp alarm note.

Auk, I, April, 1884, p. 131.

Notes-Eggs of Thrushes & Thrashers.
H. G. Parker.

Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottus*). A series of these eggs presents a beautiful sight, as they vary from a light blue ground through several darker shades, rendered doubly dark by reason of blotches of chocolate, purple, russet and brown. In some specimens much of the surface is of an unmarked plain blue, and a mass of chocolate or yellowish brown-spots form a well defined wreath around the larger end. Four or five eggs are generally laid, though six are found occasionally; and the bird is an abundant inhabitant of the southern part of the United States. A large specimen measures 1.13 x .76, and a smaller one .81 x .63.

O. & O. XII, May, 1887 p. 71

O. & O. XI, Oct. 1886, p. 148

Mockingbird. Standard set, four. Variation, three to five. Per cent of variation, nearly .50.

O. & O. XI, Oct. 1886, p. 148

Birds Known to Breed at Raleigh, N. C.
O. S. Brimley, Raleigh, N. C.

Mocking Bird (*Mimus polyglottus*). May 4 to July 30. Breeds commonly. Eggs four or five, occasionally only three.

O. & O. XIII, Mar. 1888 p. 43

On a Collection of Eggs from
Georgia. H. B. Bailey,

1. *Mimus polyglottus*. MOCKINGBIRD.—Nests in low trees and shrubs, near settlements; eggs four or five. A set taken April 1.

Bull. N. O. C. 8, Jan, 1883, p. 37

LARGE SET. R. M. Mitchell, Sandford,
Florida, reports finding a set of seven
Mockingbird's eggs April 30. O. & O. VIII, Aug. 1883 p. 64

The Mockingbird.

BY C. S. BRIMLEY, RALEIGH, N. C.

The Mocker has always been one of my favorite birds since the first time we became mutually acquainted; his courage, conspicuous appearance and lively song all combining with his distinguished manners to make a favorable impression on strangers.

The Mockers have only just arrived from the South, but have already settled down to their old ways and can be seen in all their accustomed haunts. The Mocker in this part of the world prefers the society of man—I presume the woods make him feel lonesome, as he is never found there—and wherever there is a house there also is a pair or two of Mockers and what follows, as a matter of course, a good deal of noisy bird music as well.

As a singer the Mocker is unequalled, although considered by many as a mere piratical imitator of other birds, he always seems to me

to stamp his own trade mark on his adaptations and besides he quite as often indulges in his own genuine song which certainly is no imitation of any other bird.

In his breeding habits he is quite exemplary; he begins to raise one family in May and in July his second or third are introduced to the world. He builds a bulky nest of small twigs with most anything else thrown in to help out, strings, rags, wire, grass, etc., generally choosing a small tree or bush to place his domicile in.

While his family are being raised, he and his wife are very jealous of any interference and speedily put to flight any hawk, cat, dog or other suspicious character found in the neighborhood, not only making the welkin ring with their loud remonstrances but enforcing said remonstrances with sundry vicious pecks which cause many an unsuspecting dog to flee howling from the vicinity of their nest.

When November comes most of the Mockers leave us, a few, however, remaining through the winter, chiefly in thickets, but they seem pretty lonesome and forlorn and do not sing much unless an unusually fine day is sent us by the weather bureau.

One word about the Mocker's imitations: some of them seem mere adaptations, others again are exact reproductions of the bird's notes; he can fool the unsuspecting on Killdeer, and imitate the Brown-headed Nuthatch so well that if he only stayed in the right locality he would get away with me every time, and so with a good many others, but he usually gives himself away by keeping straight ahead with his song and blending some half a dozen other bird's notes with it.

One habit of the Mocker which is pleasing or not, according to circumstances, is his way of singing all night (and all day too) when the weather gets hot. His song is very pleasant if you don't want to sleep, but a Mocker just outside an open window makes more racket than is desirable at night.

O. & O. XIII, Aug. 1882, p. 117-118.

A Collecting Trip in Texas.
G. B. Benners, Philadelphia, Pa.

Mimus polyglottus, Mockingbird. It seemed as though every tree, every bush, and every plant a foot high, contained a bird or a nest of this species. From Arkansas to the Rio Grande I found them in the greatest abundance, and was often deceived by the power they possess of imitating the notes of other birds. I have heard them give to perfection the call of the Chaparral Cock, (*Geococcyx californianus*) and I remember shooting a mockingbird in a dense thicket by mistake for a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, (*Milvulus forficatus*), as I could not see the bird, and it gave the exact *chuck, chuck*, of that Flycatcher.

I found their nests in all positions; in live oaks, ten or twelve feet from the ground; in a chaparral bush, at a height of five or six feet; and in small shrubs only a few inches from the grass. They were all built of the same materials—small sticks and roots, with a lining of dried grass, and resembled that of the Brown Thrasher, (*Harporhynchus rufus*). The eggs differed very much in color, running from a dark green ground, with large chestnut blotches, to a very light green, covered with small red specks. One set I found were light blue, with only a few brown spots at the larger end.

O. & O. XII, Apr. 1887, p. 49.

Nothing more calls for special mention until we come to *Mimus polyglottus*. Like its Latin name in both parts, its English and French appellations chiefly refer to its remarkable powers of mimicry, and date far back, for this was one of the most striking of our birds to the new comers. Thus, in the "Collections of the American Antiquarian Society," IV, 24: "*Artamockes*, a bird that imitateth and useth the sounds and tones of almost all birds in the Countrie." We have *Mimic Thrush*, *Mockbird*, *Mockingbird*, *Moquer* or *La Merle moquer*, and *English Mockingbird* (to distinguish it from the "French" Mockingbirds of the Southern States—chiefly *Harporhynchus rufus*). Its sweetness of voice apart from mimicry, and its habit of singing frequently after sunset or in the moonlight, caused it to be called in the English West Indies, *Nightingale*, and in the other islands *Rosignol*. This last word is only a modification of Rosignor, or Lord of the Rose—the Spanish name of the Nightingale; it is probably of Moorish descent, and has been applied to other American birds as well as this. The Mexican (west coast) name —, *Sinsonte*, is also in allusion to the bird's voice.

The spotted plumage is expressed in the German name *Spottvogel* or *Shpotfogel* as it is spelled in Pennsylvania. Indian names at my disposal are two: *Yuswahaya* (Florida Seminoles); and *Tshitshikniin* (Delawares).

Bull. N. O. C. 3, April, 1889, p. 74-75.

1990. *The Thrushes*. By Charles D. Oldright, Lynds Jones, Willard N. Clute, et al. *Ibid.*, pp. 32-43.—Reports by members of the Wilson Ornithological Chapter of the Agassiz Association, chiefly upon nesting and migration of *Mimus polyglottus*, *Galeoscoptes carolinensis*, *Harporhynchus rufus*, *Turdus mustelinus*, *T. fuscescens*, *T. a. pallasi*, *T. u. swainsonii*, *Merula migratoria*. *Orn. & Zoologist's Semi-annual*, Vol. 2, No. 2.

1647. *In the Haunts of the Mockingbird*. By Maurice Thompson. *Ibid.*, No. 325, Nov., 1884, pp. 620-627.—Reprinted in 'By Ways and Bird Notes,' New York, 1885, pp. 5-22. *Atlantic Mon.*

1250. *The Mocking Bird*. From the 'Macon, Ga., Telegraph.' *Ibid.*, No. 22, Nov. 27, p. 510.—Deploring its wanton destruction in the South. *Atlantic Mon.*

1653. *A Tricksy Spirit*. By Olive Thorne Miller. *Ibid.*, No. 337, Nov., 1885, pp. 676-685.—*Mimus polyglottus* in captivity. *Atlantic Mon.*

1657. *The Mockingbird's Nest*. By Olive Thorne Miller. *Ibid.*, No. 354, April, 1887, pp. 514-524. *Atlantic Mon.*

NOTE ON *MIMUS POLYGLOTTUS*.—In the summer of 1879 I found on the Platte River, about a mile west of Fort Fetterman, Wyoming, in Lat. 42° 23' 35" N. and Long. 105° 21' 4" W., a pair of Mocking-birds (*Mimus polyglottus*) breeding; the nest was placed in a low cottonwood, very near the river bank. In the following year these birds, undoubtedly the same pair, returned and reared a brood in identically the same place. This time I secured the male bird; and the specimen is now in my private collection.

In the "Birds of the Colorado Valley" Dr. Coues tells us, when referring to the limits of *Mimus*, that "the northernmost records generally quoted fix the limit in Massachusetts; but Dr. Brewer speaks of a single individual seen near Calais, Me., by Mr. George A. Boardman. Another record from an extreme point, given by Dr. P. R. Hoy, is above quoted; the extension of the bird to Wisconsin, as there indicated, has been commonly overlooked. Other States in which the bird is known to have occurred are New York, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Iowa, and Kansas. The parallel of 40° N. has been named as its usual or normal limit."

In view of these facts, and what I have learned from other ornithologists, it seems to me that this case is entitled to record, as another interesting instance, extending the limits of this bird.—R. W. SHUFELDT, *Washington, D. C.* **Bull. N.O.C.** 7, July, 1882, p. 180.

Longevity of Mockingbird.

Mrs. Hattie Holmes, 51 and 54 Main street, Woonsocket, R. I., lost one of her feathered pets Feb. 10, 1886, by death, the deceased being a Mockingbird, which lived to the advanced age of seventeen years, the usual longevity being only six.—*Woonsocket Reporter*.

O. & O. XI, Mar. 1886, p. 45.

Food of Some Raleigh Birds, O. S. Brimley.

Mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottus*). Feeds chiefly on insects in the summer, and berries in the winter, sharing, however, the fondness of the Catbird for small fruits, though not to so great an extent.

O. & O. XIII, Jan. 1888 p. 16

self have often regaled them with bits of cold hominy. It is a popular fallacy to speak of birds as "strictly insectivorous" and the like. Very few species will always confine themselves to one class of food. A still greater error is to divide all birds into useful and destructive. This subject is too wide and impor-

a horse, which had been placed in a fruit tree, in the nests of Cliff Swallows, and within an old shoe lodged in a tree."

A pair of Western Robins (*Merula migratoria propinqua*) selected a hanging basket, on the edge of a veranda, in which to build their nest; and a California Bluebird, (*Sialia mexicana*) built in the nest of a Cliff Swallow.

A Visit to Haute Island in the Bay of Fundy, July 26th, 1887.

BY WATSON L. BISHOP, KENTVILLE, N. S.

Leaving Hall's Harbor on the south side of the Bay of Fundy at 5.30 a. m., we made our way in a small sailing vessel for the above named island, about twenty miles distant, and although we had scarcely any wind and were at a further disadvantage on account of fog, we reached the island a little before 10 o'clock, and after landing with our supplies went to the Boat House, a small building down by the shore on the north-east side, of the island, had a lunch and started to explore.

Our party, five in number, consisted of one geologist, one pleasure seeker, and three amateur ornithologists, myself among the latter. I will here give a short description of the island that the reader may better understand the object of our visit.

In the first place, it is nine miles to the nearest land, Cape Chigenecto on the north; it is about one-third of a mile wide and over a mile in length. It is nearly four hundred feet high

original. Even the scolding and anxious cry of the mother bird has a certain charm about it when rightly studied. It resembles a thin sleet from the discordant squall of her cousin the Catbird, but smoothed off and finished in a way to suit her own fastidious taste.

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so far. Just it about home from my to-

lame for this f the notes of g of what is g melody. I he sea beach; he cry of sea- eratcher and song. I once ien he treated the whistling eps. Another that overhangs a most skilful infant porkers onsiderably in ns to increase ers. The pres- ough bird and urol have only f the Cardinal onpariel. The r to complete f he was out of d. Not so my s of his little there seems to a completeness r exceeds the

My Mockingbirds.

BY WALTER HOXIE.

My young Mockingbirds are learning to fly; one has just plumped down before the door and his anxious mother is trying to incite him to a feeble flight, for she has seen cats about such places and thinks it a very unsatisfactory spot for her infant. His little brothers are balancing themselves in the top of the hedge and chirping their approval of his brave venture. Now he essays to reach the top of the fence but his little tail is not long enough yet for a servicable rudder and he misses his aim and dumps himself among the potato vines on the other side. His admirers, however, applaud this new feat as loudly as the previous one. I know that for the next day or two there will be a good deal of fluttering about this corner of my hedge. This is the second family this industrious pair have sent forth upon the world this year. The first left the paternal domicile while I was away and I only knew they had arrived at years of discretion by missing them when I came home.

The present family were hatched hungry. Young Mockingbirds as a rule possess large appetites, but these were positively of unlimited capacity. The old people were kept skurrying about from sunrise to sunset; and here let me say that their food was not confined to insects by any means. Berries entered largely into their bill of fare and as a foster parent, I my-

self have often regaled them with bits of cold hominy. It is a popular fallacy to speak of birds as "strictly insectivorous" and the like. Very few species will always confine themselves to one class of food. A still greater error is to divide all birds into useful and destructive. This subject is too wide and important to discuss here, but I will illustrate one point of it at least, as applied to my little friends in the hedge. They are very partial to figs; a neighbor of mine who has a fig tree styles Mockingbirds "the most destructive of all the feathered tribe." No sooner do his figs begin to ripen than the Mockingbirds flock there by the dozen. Then he loads up his old gun and bangs away at them for hours, and unfortunately he is a pretty good shot too. Some years his murders must count up into the hundreds.

I think my pets will not wander so far. Just now they seem to find plenty to eat about home and are fattening on the worms from my tomato vines.

Mockingbird is not a good name for this sweet songster. Its rendering of the notes of other birds is a skilful handling of what is often not in first hands a pleasing melody. I have in mind one who lives near the sea beach; the theme of his lay is always the cry of seabirds. The Curlew, the Oystercatcher and even the Terns find a place in his song. I once heard him in the moon light, when he treated me to a delightful pot-pourri of the whistling of Plovers and the voices of Peeps. Another who has his nest in a peach tree that overhangs a pig pen, blends with his song a most skilful adaptation of the tones of the infant porkers below him. Individuals vary considerably in their favorite art, and age seems to increase rather than diminish their powers. The present incumbent in my hedge is a young bird and his essays beyond his native carol have only extended as yet to the whistle of the Cardinal and the rollicking lay of the Nonpareil. The latter bird is one that seems never to complete his song. He always stops as if he was out of breath and couldn't get to the end. Not so my Mocker; he handles the notes of his little gaudy neighbor so deftly that there seems to be nothing lacking. There is a completeness about his imitations which far exceeds the original. Even the scolding and anxious cry of the mother bird has a certain charm about it when rightly studied. It resembles a thin slice from the discordant squall of her cousin the Catbird, but smoothed off and finished in a way to suit her own fastidious taste.

Salicocystis
carolinensis

Galioscoptes carolinensis.

April

May

2⁵ Consent 3⁵ 4⁵ 5⁵ 7⁵ Consent 9⁵ 10⁵ 11⁵ 16⁵ 12⁵ 13⁵ 14⁵ Consent 15⁵ 16⁵ Consent 17⁵ 18⁵ Consent 19⁵ 20⁵ 21⁵ 22⁵ 23⁵ 24⁵ 25⁵ 26⁵ 27⁵ 28⁵ 29⁵ 30⁵ 31⁵ 32⁵ 33⁵ 34⁵ 35⁵ 36⁵ 37⁵ 38⁵ 39⁵ 40⁵ 41⁵ 42⁵ 43⁵ 44⁵ 45⁵ 46⁵ 47⁵ 48⁵ 49⁵ 50⁵ 51⁵ 52⁵ 53⁵ 54⁵ 55⁵ 56⁵ 57⁵ 58⁵ 59⁵ 60⁵ 61⁵ 62⁵ 63⁵ 64⁵ 65⁵ 66⁵ 67⁵ 68⁵ 69⁵ 70⁵ 71⁵ 72⁵ 73⁵ 74⁵ 75⁵ 76⁵ 77⁵ 78⁵ 79⁵ 80⁵ 81⁵ 82⁵ 83⁵ 84⁵ 85⁵ 86⁵ 87⁵ 88⁵ 89⁵ 90⁵ 91⁵ 92⁵ 93⁵ 94⁵ 95⁵ 96⁵ 97⁵ 98⁵ 99⁵ 100⁵ 101⁵ 102⁵ 103⁵ 104⁵ 105⁵ 106⁵ 107⁵ 108⁵ 109⁵ 110⁵ 111⁵ 112⁵ 113⁵ 114⁵ 115⁵ 116⁵ 117⁵ 118⁵ 119⁵ 120⁵ 121⁵ 122⁵ 123⁵ 124⁵ 125⁵ 126⁵ 127⁵ 128⁵ 129⁵ 130⁵ 131⁵ 132⁵ 133⁵ 134⁵ 135⁵ 136⁵ 137⁵ 138⁵ 139⁵ 140⁵ 141⁵ 142⁵ 143⁵ 144⁵ 145⁵ 146⁵ 147⁵ 148⁵ 149⁵ 150⁵ 151⁵ 152⁵ 153⁵ 154⁵ 155⁵ 156⁵ 157⁵ 158⁵ 159⁵ 160⁵ 161⁵ 162⁵ 163⁵ 164⁵ 165⁵ 166⁵ 167⁵ 168⁵ 169⁵ 170⁵ 171⁵ 172⁵ 173⁵ 174⁵ 175⁵ 176⁵ 177⁵ 178⁵ 179⁵ 180⁵ 181⁵ 182⁵ 183⁵ 184⁵ 185⁵ 186⁵ 187⁵ 188⁵ 189⁵ 190⁵ 191⁵ 192⁵ 193⁵ 194⁵ 195⁵ 196⁵ 197⁵ 198⁵ 199⁵ 200⁵ 201⁵ 202⁵ 203⁵ 204⁵ 205⁵ 206⁵ 207⁵ 208⁵ 209⁵ 210⁵ 211⁵ 212⁵ 213⁵ 214⁵ 215⁵ 216⁵ 217⁵ 218⁵ 219⁵ 220⁵ 221⁵ 222⁵ 223⁵ 224⁵ 225⁵ 226⁵ 227⁵ 228⁵ 229⁵ 230⁵ 231⁵ 232⁵ 233⁵ 234⁵ 235⁵ 236⁵ 237⁵ 238⁵ 239⁵ 240⁵ 241⁵ 242⁵ 243⁵ 244⁵ 245⁵ 246⁵ 247⁵ 248⁵ 249⁵ 250⁵ 251⁵ 252⁵ 253⁵ 254⁵ 255⁵ 256⁵ 257⁵ 258⁵ 259⁵ 260⁵ 261⁵ 262⁵ 263⁵ 264⁵ 265⁵ 266⁵ 267⁵ 268⁵ 269⁵ 270⁵ 271⁵ 272⁵ 273⁵ 274⁵ 275⁵ 276⁵ 277⁵ 278⁵ 279⁵ 280⁵ 281⁵ 282⁵ 283⁵ 284⁵ 285⁵ 286⁵ 287⁵ 288⁵ 289⁵ 290⁵ 291⁵ 292⁵ 293⁵ 294⁵ 295⁵ 296⁵ 297⁵ 298⁵ 299⁵ 300⁵ 301⁵ 302⁵ 303⁵ 304⁵ 305⁵ 306⁵ 307⁵ 308⁵ 309⁵ 310⁵ 311⁵ 312⁵ 313⁵ 314⁵ 315⁵ 316⁵ 317⁵ 318⁵ 319⁵ 320⁵ 321⁵ 322⁵ 323⁵ 324⁵ 325⁵ 326⁵ 327⁵ 328⁵ 329⁵ 330⁵ 331⁵ 332⁵ 333⁵ 334⁵ 335⁵ 336⁵ 337⁵ 338⁵ 339⁵ 340⁵ 341⁵ 342⁵ 343⁵ 344⁵ 345⁵ 346⁵ 347⁵ 348⁵ 349⁵ 350⁵ 351⁵ 352⁵ 353⁵ 354⁵ 355⁵ 356⁵ 357⁵ 358⁵ 359⁵ 360⁵ 361⁵ 362⁵ 363⁵ 364⁵ 365⁵ 366⁵ 367⁵ 368⁵ 369⁵ 370⁵ 371⁵ 372⁵ 373⁵ 374⁵ 375⁵ 376⁵ 377⁵ 378⁵ 379⁵ 380⁵

66

B. Col (Ball's H) Milton Hill, ^{Provincetown} ~~Provincetown~~ ^{Mass} ~~Mass~~
9' 11' 12' 14' 18' 23' (62)

41

G. carolinensis

46

[illegible]

June

Heat Id. Hyacinths Narcissus Cg.

3^d 4^d 5^d 9^d 10^d 11^d 12^d 8^d 9^d 10^d 11^d 12^d

81

Maple St. Bell's H. Co.
30' x 1895 22' x 1897

•

$1^1_8, 2^2_8, 5^4_8, 7^1_8, 9^1_8, 10^4_8, 11^3_8, 12^2_8, 21^1_8, 22^2_8, 23^2_8, 24^2_8$ Concord

July

Cambridge (garden) Milton Cambridge (garden) Bury Cambridge garden Milton Co. Ch. Co. G. Co. 1850

3' 4' 5' 6' 7' 8' 9' 10' 11' 12' 13' 14' 15' 16' 17' 18' 19' 20' 22' 23' 25' 26' 30' 31'

* *

August

Cambridge garden. Col. 2.
1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. (nest & young destroyed by cat) 12.

4

92

September

October

7 (Ball's H) 8' 10" Concord
inner cabin Ball's Hill
3' 4' 5' 6' 7' Concord 1898

“

3¹ 4¹ 5¹ 6¹ 7¹ Concord 1898

December 2' near cabin, Ball's Hill, Concord, R. A. Gilbert 1899

Galeoscoptes carolinensis

11 18%

Company, Inc.,

Mimus carolinensis

1889 Mass.

July 16 Cambridge. - A ♂ singing vigorously and continuously in the swamps this afternoon about 6.30 o'clock.

Aug. 8 Melrose Highlands. - "Cat-birds sang steadily until the 8th and then stopped short." (Forney letter Aug 20-89.) Midsummer singing

" 28 Cambridge. - Abundant in the "maple swamp." I saw at least a dozen. They seemed to be in very ragged plumage - pin-feathery about the head especially. They mewed and uttered the twig-snapping cry. Came in hot haste to sweeping. On the 25th I saw several at Cohasset Eating elder berries feeding on elder berries with Robins.

1890

May 23 Cambridge. - Nest, 3 eggs, in bush - 8 ft. - Maple swamp. First nest.

" 29 Belmont. - Nest 4 eggs in barberry in open pasture ht. 4 ft. bird sitting Nests
with 1 egg
another in blueberry, ht. 3 ft., edge of swampy thicket, no bird.
Did not take either nest.

June 22 Charles River above Waltham. - Very abundant in thickets along the banks. Distribution
Heard one bird which excelled any that I have ever listened to before. An exceptional
Portions of his song recalled that of the Robin and most of it single
was very Thrush-like in character. I should say that it excelled
the song of the Wood Thrush.

Salpinctes carolinensis

1892.

July 10 Concord. A cat-bird at Lee's Cliff sang delightfully most of the time that we were there coming just a low pine directly over us. Its song was exceptionally good being almost wholly free from the usual grating smothering or choking sounds which mar it so sadly and composed chiefly of round, full liquid notes. Although it lacked the power and vigor of the song of the Broom Thrasher it was equal if not superior to it in every other respect. I do not think that I ever before heard cat-bird singing which equalled this.

Falco sparverius carolinensis.

Concord, Mass.
May, 28, 1898.

Oddly enough I had gone less than 50 yards after
leaving the bushes east when I stumbled quite
by accident on a Cat Bird's nest also placed in a
pine but only about 3 ft. above the ground, the tree
being a new shoot growing in an opening among
larger pines. The nest was very conspicuous from every
side. It contained three eggs on which the female
parent was sitting.

Cat Bird's
nest in
white pine

Galeoscoptes carolinensis

1894 Mass.

Cambridge. A pair of Cat birds have bred in our garden this season for the first time in twelve or fifteen years. I was away too much of the time to keep a close watch on them but this are the facts that I did note.

May 9 The male first seen. He sang regularly through the season after this.

" 18 The female first seen in company with her mate.

June 12 The female discovered sitting on her nest which was built in the top of a lilac tree clump (nearest Sparks St.) at a height (measured) of about ten ground - the greatest height, I think, at which I ever saw the nest of this species.

Galeoscoptes carolinensis

1894 Mass.

July 23 Cambridge. The Catbird which has spent this Once garden
Catbirds
 summer in our garden still sings a little each day in the early morning and again at sunset. I have not seen his mate of late but think she is sitting on her second nest which, however, I have not found. At least one young bird of the first brood still haunts the garden and is often to be seen in company with his father. Up to within a few days this young bird has had, so far as I have observed, but one note, a low note of
the young
 chirp exactly like that of a Sparrow (Sparrow), but rather louder or stronger. These Catbirds have fed almost wholly on cherries during the past three weeks but this food is fast failing them & I now see them on the ground again searching for worms or grubs.

Aug. 9 Thus far there has not been a day since his arrival in Singing
through
July to Aug.
 May when our Catbird has not sung more or less. During the past three weeks he has sung chiefly if not wholly at day break & sunset and then (especially when the weather has been hot & dry) often for only a minute or two. This morning, however, after a heavy shower he was in full song In full song
Aug. 9
 (at intervals) from 8 to 11 a. m. So far as our garden birds are concerned he has outdone all the rest for even the Robins are now silent.

at 1.30 P. M. I found the Catbirds' nest. Second
nest
 One hour later I found the nest again. The nest is in the Second
nest
 top of a lilac about 10 ft. above the ground & nearly on the walk which leads from the house to the carriage. I have not seen any of the young of the first brood for a week or more. Probably more of them have been killed by cats.

Galuscaptes Carolinensis

1896

Mass.

May

Cambridge. Mrs. Burnett tells me that a Catbird which appeared singing at
at Elmwood in May and for about three weeks
haunted the Sycinga bushes close about the house sang not
only all day but much of the time by night as well. On
two successive nights it sang loudly and almost continuously
for two or three hours, on the first night from 12 o'clock to
a little past 2 a.m., on the second from 1.45 to 3.30 a.m.
Both nights were clear but without a moon the place of
which, however, may have been taken the thickness by a large
acer ~~leaf~~ which throws a flood of light on the bushes in
which the Catbird was perched. She did not see this bird's
note nor has she seen or heard the note for two or
three weeks prior to this date (June 19).

N. Hampshire

June 14

Coolebrook. A Catbird was singing in a tall elm over
the river flitting from branch to branch at short in-
tervals. He was an unusually fine singer and successful
mimic imitating the metallic call of the Kingbird and
the quie-quie of the Alder Flycatcher so perfectly that I
doubt if the birds themselves could have detected any
flaw in the rendering. For sometime I supposed that
there really was an Alder Flycatcher in the same tree
with the Catbird.

1898 Mass.

May 11 Concord. Four or five, most of them singing at Ball's Hill. First arrivals.

[Journ.].

Mass., Berkshire Co.

July 2-4 Glendale (in a war). very common. [Journ.].

1899

May Concord. The alarm note of the Cat. bird may be best rendered Alarm note.
wick, wick

Falco carolinensis

1905 Mass.

July 12 Cambridge. Our garden Catbirds have already reared a brood of four young and I think the female parent has laid a second clutch of eggs as I have not seen her for several days. The young remained in the garden until their tails were fully grown when, as has been invariably the case in former years, they all disappeared this morning only three or four days ago. The ♂ Catbird arrived this year on May 4 and his mate was first seen on the 11th. Both birds fed freely and vigorously through May and the first half of June on some seed which had been put out in February or March and left hanging in the catclaps then by the Museum. They built their first nest low down in a dense Syringa bush on the border of the thicket of lilacs at the rear of our house within a few yards of the last year's nest. The ♂ sang freely for a few days after his arrival but comparatively infrequently after that until the first brood of young had begun to care for themselves. Since then he has treated us to the most delightful concerts at all hours of the day. He is a remarkably fine singer and his repertoires include perfect imitations of the songs of the Whippoorwill and Wood Thrush and a fairly good rendering of a few notes of the Bobolink's song. These imitations incline us to believe that he is ^(or includes) the same bird which we have had since 1901 for ~~the same~~ ^{the same} bird. Last year our garden bird has imitated the Wood Thrush and Bobolink and since 1903 the Whippoorwill also.

Our garden Catbirds.

Imitates songs of Wood Thrush Whippoorwill and Bobolink

At evening our Catbirds are greatly disturbed by the Robins who come to the lilacs by hundreds to roost. When the Robins first established their roost there or five years ago the Catbirds abandoned the lilacs & built their second nest at the head of our garden but since then the Catbirds have nested regularly in & near the lilacs despite the presence of the Robins.

Galeoscoptes carolinensis.

Concord, Mass.

Singing in old nest.

1899. Hearing a Catbird singing this morning in a thicket very
May 13. near me I was surprised that I could ^{not} see it for the foliage
was merely a thin veil through which the eye penetrated easily
in every direction. At length I discovered the bird
crouched in a last year's nest where it kept moving around
very slowly singing steadily and loudly all the while. I did
not see its mate.

Eastern Massachusetts, Concord.

1899. On Dec. 2nd my assistant R.A. Gilbert found a Catbird in
December. the bushes along the river path near the cabin at Ball's
Hill, Concord. The bird was very tame and Gilbert got within
a few yards of it seeing the blackish cap and the rufous un-
der tail coverts distinctly.

Galeoscoptes carolinensis.

1900 Mass.

July 14 Cambridge, The Garden. The young Catbirds calling for food uttered a succession of loud, shrill, Tringilline chirps not unlike those of young Song Sparrows (tsee, tsee). W.B.

1901.

May 8 Cambridge. Our Garden Catbird arrived May 8th this year and
to August 17 at once settled down in his old haunts. Nothing was seen of his mate until the 22nd when the pair were observed together inspecting the cluster of Spiraea bushes where they reared seven young last year. On the 24th they began repairing one of the old nests (the one in which they reared their first brood in 1900). They hatched & brought out their young about the ^(young left nest June 26) ~~middle~~ of June, but a few days later the young all disappeared. They then repaired the other old nest. Whether they laid a second set or not we do not know. No young were seen after this. Two birds were seen together up to Aug. 10th and a single bird up to the 17th. After this date no Catbirds were seen in the garden until Sept. 13 when Mr. Deane noted one which, no doubt, was a migrant from farther north.

Our male Catbird sang superbly this year. Indeed I have never heard a finer performer. His repertoire included ~~a succession~~ ^{imitations} of two of Wood Thrush's songs of the song of the Wood Thrush which were so perfectly rendered that at first I felt sure a Wood Thrush was singing in the garden. The notes, however, were less loud and ringing than those of the Thrush. He also gave swatches of the Robins' song with amusing spirit and volubility but this imitation was less successful than the other.

Nov. 13-17 Concord. On the 13th Pat Flannery reported a Catbird near the Spout Spring colony. Gilbert saw him on the 15th & 16th and I had several good views of him on the 17th. I think he must have departed the following night but I looked for him being on the 18th near Concord and Gilbert found him where he visited Concord on the 22nd. During his stay he frequented the brushy thickets which border the E. end of Ball's Hill & repeatedly came close about the colony. He was all alert, vigorous-looking bird and showed no signs of injury or weakness. I saw him make several long flights in long bills out and

Birds of Upper St. John,
Batchelder.

5. *Mimus carolinensis* (Linn.) Gr. CATBIRD. — At Houlton "very rare. A pair has bred in this vicinity each year since I have been here" (R. R. McL.). Not met with at Fort Fairfield or Grand Falls.

Bull, N. O. O., 7, April, 1882, p. 109

Last Dates Migratory Birds observed by
E. D. Wintle, Fall 1885, Montreal, Can.

Aug 15. Catbird,

O. & O. XI, Mar. 1886, p. 44.

Ornithological Trip to St. Bruno, P. Q.
May 25, 1885. E. D. Wintle, Montreal.

Catbird, scarce.

O. & O. XI, May, 1886, p. 78.

Breeding Dates of Birds in Kings
County, N. S. Watson L. Bishop.

Catbird (*Galeoscoptes carolinensis*). July 21,
23, 25.

O. & O. XIII, Mar. 1888, p. 45

Birds of Toronto, Canada,
by James H. Fleming,
Part II, Land Birds,
Auk, XXIV, Jan., 1907, p. 85.

270. *Galeoscoptes carolinensis*. CATBIRD. — Regular summer resident,
common May 4 to September 26; earliest spring record, May 1, 1899;
latest, October 15, 1906; breeds commonly.

Birds of Dead River Region, Me. F. H. C.

5. *Galeoscoptes carolinensis*, (Catbird). I was shown the skin of this species by a gentleman in Farmington, who secured it in that town. I did not see it at all north of that latitude.

O. & O. XI. Aug. 1886, p. 114

Mimus carolinensis. - Not very plentiful, Shelburne, N. H. Aug. 8-29-1865, R. D.

Mimus carolinensis. - ^{aug.} July 20 Rye Beach, N. H. 1872.

✓ 2 *Mimus carolinensis*. - ^{Rye Beach, N. H. July 23-24-1885.} Abundant ✓

3 *Mimus carolinensis*. - one Wolfeboro, N. H. June. 17-1887.

Bds. Obs. at Franconia and Bethlehem
N. H. July-August, 1874. J. A. Allen

43. *Galeoscoptes carolinensis*. A few seen in the valley of the Ammonoosuc at Bethlehem, and a few on Gale River, in and near Franconia village, but none at higher elevations, and only a few in all. - *Harporhynchus rufus* was not noted.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p. 154

Birds Obs. at Bridgewater, N. H.
July 12-Sept. 4, 1888. F. H. Allen

Galeoscoptes carolinensis. - Common.

Auk, VI. Jan., 1889. p. 77

Birds Obs. at Moultonboro, N. H.
July 21-Aug. 11, 1883. F. H. Allen

Galeoscoptes carolinensis. - Quite common.

Auk, VI. Jan., 1889. p. 79

Birds Obsvd. near Holderness, N. H.
June 4-12, '85, and 4-11, '86. W. Faxon

59. *Galeoscoptes carolinensis*. CATBIRD. - Common.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p. 151

Bds. Obs. in Franconia, N. H. June 11-21
'86, and June 4-Aug. 1, '87. W. Faxon

74. *Galeoscoptes carolinensis*. CATBIRD. - Common.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p. 153

Birds of Hillsboro Co. N. H. June 27, '92
Arthur M. Farmer, Amoskeag, N. H.

Catbird, pair were breeding.

O. & O Vol. 17, Sept. 1892 p. 136

1904.

May 15, 1904

Plumage common. 10 to 15
seen in the woods. The
first seen. 20 to 25. The
winter birds of about 1000.

1905.

May 15, 1905. 10 to 15
seen in the woods. The
first seen. 20 to 25.

1906.

May 15, 1906. 10 to 15
seen in the woods. The
first seen. 20 to 25.

The Catbird Wintering at Concord, N. H.—On Dec. 3, 1901, while walking through an extensive wood near Concord, N. H., consisting principally of scrub pine, I was very much surprised to see a Catbird (*Galeoscoptes carolinensis*) hop out of a small scrub-pine, and perch directly in front of me in a bare bush within ten feet of my face. He uttered no note, but flitted up his tail, giving me a view of his brown under tail-coverts, and was gone. I did not have a gun with me at the time so I had no means of securing him, nevertheless there can be no doubt as to his identity. He was undoubtedly wintering where I saw him in the sheltered scrub-pine wood. The afternoon that I saw him there were several inches of snow on the ground and the thermometer was way below freezing.—D. LEET OLIVER, Concord, N. H.

Auk, XIX, April, 1902, pp. 208-209.

Galeoscoptes carolinensis.

Peterborough, New Hampshire.

1898. Abundant in thickets near the shores of Cunningham Pond

July 5 and often seen elsewhere along brush-bordered roads. Heard
to

Aug.15. in full song July 6, 20, 23 and 24.

2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 2680, 2681, 2682, 2683, 26

Pigeon Cove, Mass. July. 29. 1885.
M. carolinensis. - abundant. ~~Princeton~~
 Princeton & Rutland, Mass. Aug. 2-1885
 2. *Mimus carolinensis*. - abundant.
 Princeton & No. Rutland, Mass. June, 18-1883.
 4. *Mimus carolinensis*. Abundant
 Winchendon, Mass. June, 1888.
 Not common (Barley) June 14. 1881 ✓
 Falmouth, Mass. 1889.
Mimus carolinensis July 4 35-142
 2 Falmouth, Mass. 1889.

Mass. (near Cambridge).

1887

Oct. 20th (a single bird at Grantville, in cedars near a house)

Mimus carolinensis

Mass. (near Concord).

1887

May 6th 3rd 8th 9th 10th 11th 13th 16th 17th 21st 23rd 25th
 June 2nd 4th 6th 7th 16th
 July 7th 10th 15th 23rd 24th 26th
 Aug. 1st 13th 14th 15th 17th

Mimus carolinensis

ringing. # young on wing.

Mass. (Middlebury)

1888

Apr. 28th (Denton)

Mimus carolinensis

1888

cat Bird

S. W. Denton.

May 6. Saw first one today.
 " 9. Shot a ♂ this evening, tested lungs
 " 11. Saw him
 " 13. " one
 " 14. " two
 " 20+21. I found several nests, building
 no eggs as yet reported, having been taken
 by day of the boys.

1. E. Mass. 1885.

42. *Mimus carolinensis*. - June 12, 16; July 1, 17 Sept. 30th

1889

Mimus carolinensis

Wellesley, Mass.

May 28. 42942.

Winter Notes from Wellesley Mass
S. W. Denton.

On Dec. 30, a Catbird (*Mimus carolinensis*),
was shot by a young man in Wellesley in some
bushes on the edge of Charles River. It was a
male in full plumage.

O. & O. XIII, July. 1888 p. 104

Mass. (Winchendon)

1887

June 24³ - 25⁴ - 26⁶ 1887" 14² - 18⁴ 1888

Not common (Bailey)

Mimus carolinensis

Birds Known to Pass Breeding Season
nr. Winchendon, Mass. Wm. Brewster

73. *Galeoscoptes carolinensis*.

Ank, V, Oct., 1888. p. 389

Bds. Obs. near Sheffield, Berkshire
Co., Mass. June 17-20, '88. W. Faxon

68. *Galeoscoptes carolinensis*. CATBIRD.—Common.

Ank, VI, Jan., 1889, p. 46

Bds. Obs. near Graylock Mt. Berkshire
Co. Mass. June 28-July 16. W. Faxon

65. *Galeoscoptes carolinensis*. CATBIRD.—Common in the lower
and more open country.

Ank, VI, April, 1889. p. 105

Effect of the mild winter of 1878 on
Bird-Migration ... John Murdoch.

The Catbird (*Mimus carolinensis*) generally departs by the mid-
dle of October, but Mr. C. W. Townsend, a member of this Club,
informs me that one of these birds was taken by J. F. Carleton, in
a field at Woods Hole, Mass., on the 28th of last December.

Bull. N. O. C. 3, April, 1878, p. 76.

S. W. Denton.

Arrivals - May 13

Cat-Birds, appeared at
Dorchester, Mass.

O. & O. VIII, June. 1883. p. 42.

A Catbird was shot at Millbury, Mass., Dec.
30. C. K. Reed.

O. & O. IX, Dec. 1884, p. 11

Birds of Bristol County, Mass.
F. W. Andros.

Galeoscoptes carolinensis (Linn.), Catbird.
Summer resident, common. Breeds.

O. & O. XII, Sept. 1887 p. 141

W. Townsend, Ashby, Fitchburg; Very common and generally distributed throughout the lowlands, especially in swampy thickets along brooks & about ponds and meadows. In full song during our stay, even during hot, clear days. Although we listened ~~intently~~ to many different individuals we did not hear one mimic the song of any other bird.

Mass. (Concord)

Minus carolinensis ✓

1886

Mimicking other birds.

May 19

About a week ago a Cat Bird appeared in the lilac bushes about the Manor. He has scarcely left them since and though he certainly has us much he sings almost without intermission the day through.

He imitates perfectly the scream of the Blue Jay the liquid ph-e-e-en of Birds flavifrons, the low call of the Purple Finch, the click of the Rose-breasted Grosbeak and in addition whistles what seems to be a bar of some tune.

" 23

During the 20th our Cat. bird was absent

Mass. (Concord)

Minus carolinensis

1886

Unusual note.

July 9

The Cat bird when startled utters a rattling cry like the breaking of small sticks or the sound made by drawing a cane across the plate of a fence. This note is seldom heard.

Mass. (Concord)

Minus carolinensis ✓

1886

Nest-building

May 24

One Cat-bird at the Mause were at work on their nest this morning. Both birds came and went bringing long slender twigs and working them into the rim. They invariably worked while sitting in the nest and used much exertion often trying several times before the twig would take its required place. They held the twig by one end and pushed it down by a jerking motion. The male was hardly busy at all of late.

Mass. (Concord)

Minus carolinensis

1887 Second brood? - long dependence of young on parents.

July 3

One Catbird at the Mause brought out their young from the nest on June 16th. The tails of their young are not yet fully grown and they still utter the Sparrow-like chirp. I was, moreover, surprised to see one of them fed by an old bird to-day. Yesterday I saw one of the parents peck a young bird very sorely in the mouth which was spread in hope of receiving food. Probably they are trying to wear them at this time. I am very sure the old birds have not attempted a second nest.

Galeoscoptes carolinensis

1895

Falmouth, Mass.

July 29 (32) Thinks to be found. anxious to breeding.

" 31 " " " " " "

The Catbird (*Galeoscoptes carolinensis*) in Massachusetts in Winter.— Just below my house in the northern part of this city is an old pasture grown up with huckleberry, sheep laurel and other bushes, and at the further end is a birch thicket with a tangle of briars and some sumach. While passing this birch thicket about 2 p. m. on January 11 last, I heard a note much like the mew of a Catbird, but uttered in an excited, continuous manner, more like the notes of that bird when suddenly finding an intruder near its nest. On approaching over the two inches of snow, I was much interested to see a Catbird jump up into one of the bushes about fifteen yards away from me. I at once made the identification sure by using my glasses. The bird was in sight several minutes, passing by short flights to a thicket across the street. While in sight it uttered its mewing note not over two or three times. This was a fine spring-like day with a light southwest wind.—OWEN DUFFEE, *Fall River, Mass.*
Auk, XIX, April., 1902, p. 208.

Mimicry in the Song of the Catbird.— Though belonging to a distinguished and accomplished family of singers numbering among its members such delightful songsters as the Brown Thrasher, Mockingbird and more distantly related Carolina Wren, the Catbird figures with a more modest pretention to song and until recently I had supposed its vocal powers limited to its own individual lyrical, and sometimes seemingly labored song. But on July 5, 1912, while working in a meadow adjacent to a small brook with its usual tangle of alder, raspberry and elder I noted with considerable surprise and interest, more so because of the day-light hour, 11 a. m., the song of a Whip-poor-will, somewhat subdued and minor in quality, but clear and distinct nevertheless. It was several times repeated from the nearby thicket. So out of the usual was it at this hour that I went at once to reconnoiter and was not a little surprised to find the author, not a Whip-poor-will but a Catbird! So far as my observation extends he was certainly acting in a new rôle. Two or three times later in the day I heard the same performance repeated, and subsequent visits to the same locality have, on two occasions, enabled me to substantially confirm my first conclusions as to the accomplishments of this individual.

It is of further interest to note that in this particular locality the Whip-poor-will is seldom heard. One would have to travel several miles to a more 'brushy' or thickly wooded surrounding to hear them. These observations lead to the query, how then did the Catbird 'learn his lesson' and how much progress and to what degree do some individuals of the species attain in mimicry?—S. WALDO BAILEY, *Newburyport, Mass.*
Auk, XXIX, Oct. 1912, p. 546.

Catbird and Brown Thrasher in Winter in Massachusetts.— On Christmas Day, 1911, in the Arnold Arboretum at Jamaica Plain, Massachusetts, I saw a Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) in some shrubbery about three hundred yards from the museum. It was quite lively though silent and rather shy. Twenty days later, on January 14, 1912, I again saw what was probably the same bird. This time it was apparently sunning itself in the vines on the museum. After allowing a rather near approach it flew across the road into some bushes, where it remained still seeking the sunshine and as before, silent. The weather was clear and cold with a minimum temperature of one degree below zero and the Catbird acted, as it well might, as if it was half frozen. The bird was not observed after this date and as shortly afterwards some Catbird feathers were seen strewn around about the museum it probably came to an untimely end.

While walking in the Arboretum on the morning of December 22, 1912, I saw a Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*) on the ground very busily at work poking among the leaves with its bill. The bird was very tame and I approached to within four feet of it, hardly any notice being taken of me. It did not utter a note of any kind neither did it leave the ground while I was there. It has not been seen since, the snowstorm of Christmas Eve probably driving it southward.—HAROLD L. BARRETT, *Jamaica Plain, Mass.*
Auk 30, April. 1913, p. 278

Winter birds at Hareham, Mass.
Catbird, *Dumetella carolinensis*, one
L.A. Robbins
Auk. xxxii. Oct. 1915. p. 499-500

The Catbird in Winter in Massachusetts.—In January, 1916, I saw a calling Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) near dusk in the Botanic Garden, Cambridge, Massachusetts. On the 29th of February I saw him again in a yard on Garden Street near the Botanic Garden, and again on 10 March. This has been an unusually severe winter and the past month, according to the Weather Bureau, the snowiest February since 1893, but this bird seems to be in good condition.

My only other record of the Catbird in winter is that of an individual which I observed in Stoughton on December 4, 1910. My latest date for an undoubted migrant is October 22, 1913, when I heard one calling in North Stoughton.—S. F. BLAKE, Stoughton, Mass.

Auk. xxxiii. July 1916. p. 325-326.

The Catbird again in Rhode Island in Winter.—Noticing the recording of *Galeoscoptes carolinensis* in Massachusetts and New Hampshire in winter (Auk, XIX, April, 1902, p. 208), it may be of interest to report that I have seen an individual of this bird in Pawtucket, R. I., several times during the past winter. The first date was Dec. 28, 1901; the second, Jan. 16, 1902; and the subsequent dates were Feb. 3 and 12, and March 4, 1902. There is no doubt it was the same bird each time, as each observation was made in the same locality,—a swampy sheltered stretch along an old canal. The last time I recorded this bird he appeared to be having trouble with a flock of Jays.—C. C. PURDUM, M. D., *Pawtucket, R. I.*

Auk, XIX, July, 1902, p. 292, 293.

Birds observed in Naval Hospital
grounds, Brooklyn, G.H. Coues

19. *Mimus carolinensis*. CATBIRD. — Common; breeds.

Bull. N.O.C. 4, Jan., 1879, p. 32

Birds of the Adirondack Region.
C.H. Merriam.

7. *Galeoscoptes carolinensis* (Linn.) Caban. CAT-BIRD. — Breeds along the borders of the mountains but rarely penetrates the wilderness to any great extent.

Bull. N.O.C. 6, Oct, 1881, p. 226

Unseasonable Birds on Long Island.—1. *Galeoscoptes carolinensis*. — On December 30, 1882, while passing along one of the streets of our village — Fort Hamilton — my attention was arrested by a bird note, familiar yet strangely out of place at that season — none other than the characteristic cry of the Catbird. I caught sight of the bird a moment later, hopping about in the branches of a lilac bush in a private yard, not a dozen feet from me, so that there was no error in the identification.

De L. Barber, 52 Broadway,

Auk, 3, April, 1886, p. 281.

Arrivals of Mig'y Birds, Spring-1886,
Central Park, N. Y. City. A. G. Paine, Jr.

May 5, *Galeoscoptes carolinensis*, (704). Catbird.

O. & O. XI, July, 1886, p. 109

Birds Toga Co, N. Y. Alden Loring.

12. Catbird. Common. I find the favorite resorts of this bird to be along the river banks and small creeks. Their food consists of bugs and strawberries. The nest is placed in a bush or small tree, is composed of small twigs and is lined with hair and sometimes leaves. It is deeply hollowed and is quite compact. The eggs, usually four in number, are of a dark green color and measure as follows: 7-8 in. by 11-16 in. As the last of September draws near, the Catbird departs for its southern home, not in flocks, however, but in pairs or singly.

O. & O. XX, June, 1890, p. 81

Notes on the Spring Migration of Birds in the
Northern Adirondacks [Apten], New York [1901].
May 20 to 25.

Catbird. Tolerably common.

E. L. Stalling, Brooklyn, Pa.

Ann. XIX, July, 1902, p. 286.

The Occurrence of the Catbird (*Mimus carolinensis*) on the Farallone Islands, Pacific Ocean.—Our Catbird appears to be not only extending its range, but wandering into very strange places. On the third of September, 1884, the U. S. Lighthouse Steamer 'Manzarrita' landed myself and assistant on one of the Farallone Islands for the purpose of collecting sea lions for the National Museum. We were rowed ashore amid the roar of hundreds of sea lions, and the screams of myriads of birds.

Immediately upon landing I accompanied the Inspector to the lighthouse, which occupies the highest rocks three hundred feet above the sea. Near the tower, surrounded by Murres, Puffins, and Gulls, I saw a bird which of all birds was the least to be expected in such a place—a 'regular' eastern *Catbird*.

I rushed to the landing for my gun and was back on remarkably short order, considering the number of times my unfortunate stomach had paid tribute to Neptune on the passage out from San Francisco, but the bird had disappeared and could not be found. On the following day, however, it was discovered among the rocks near the sea, and its skin is now in the Smithsonian Institution, still surrounded, it is true, by Murres and Puffins, but not noisy ones. The specimen is perhaps not appreciably different from others of the same species with which it has been compared, its small bill being matched in specimens from Key West, and its light colored under parts not being exceptional.

The occurrence of this species on these islands is the more remarkable as it has not yet been recorded from California, being known on the Pacific Coast of the United States only in the region of the Columbia River. The Farallones (Spanish, meaning pointed rocks in the sea) are disposed in three groups several miles apart, the largest being about a mile long and lying thirty miles west of the Golden Gate. They are well named, for there is neither soil nor vegetation upon them, except the guano of the birds and three species of weeds. In summer the eggs of the birds which swarm there to breed, are gathered by the barrel-full for the San Francisco market.—CHAS. H. TOWNSEND, *Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D. C. Auk*, 2, April, 1886. p. 215-216.

Descriptions of First Plumage of Certain North Am. Bbs. Wm. Brewster.

5. *Mimus carolinensis*.

First plumage: male. Pileum dull sooty-brown, many shades lighter than in adult. Wings and tail as in adult; interscapular region brownish-ashy, shading into pale cinnamon-brown on the rump. Entire under parts barred obscurely with dull brown on a very light ashy ground; crissum pale, dead cinnamon. In my collection from Cambridge, Mass., August 9, 1875.

Bull. N.O.C. 3, Jan., 1878, p. 18.

Albinism and Melanism in North American Birds. Ruthven Deane.

I have recently procured an immature specimen of the Catbird from Mr. H. K. Coale of Chicago, Ill., which was shot at Hyde Park, Ill., the 21st of July, 1878. Dr. Charles C. Abbott informs me that a pure white bird of this species with pink eyes was captured alive on his grounds at Trenton, N. J., and sent to the Museum of Biology at Princeton, N. J.

Bull. N.O.C. 4, Jan., 1879, p. 28.

BIRDS IN CONFINEMENT. I have added to my aviary since I last wrote a very odd specimen of the Catbird family. It has a broad band of white across the tail, about an inch from its tip. There is also one white feather in the right wing. Otherwise, *Mimus* is no different from others of his race. But you have no idea what a peculiar appearance that white stripe gives him, especially when his tail is fully spread. Have you ever met with a like specimen? I found him in the store of a Fourth-avenue dealer in New York, who told me he was an unusually fine singer; but he has not yet favored me with a song. I have also a Myrtle Bird (*Dendroica coronata*), a charming little fellow; and a Chewink (*Pipilo erythrophthalmus*) among my native birds. I trust the coming Spring will add many more to my list.
—Annie Trumbull Slosson, Hartford.

O.&O. VIII, July, 1883, p. 55.

Mimus carolinensis. CATBIRD.

The Catbird sings from its arrival—late April or early May—through July, but with decreasing regularity towards the end of the month; and in one or two years I have not heard it later. Usually singing is abandoned shortly after the beginning of August, but sometimes individuals continue in song quite to the middle of the month.

Though the species remains well into October, and is sometimes to be numbered among the loiterers of the following month, during all this time no music escapes it. Careless and extravagant with his powers when they are in easy possession, this talented musician has lost them at a time when they would be most appreciated, and naturally less capable performers succeed it.

Besides its song, and the well-known call-note that has conferred its name, the Catbird has another characteristic vocal accomplishment—a short, sharp, crackling sound, like the snapping of small fagots. This is not often heard before the dog-days, but in late summer is sometimes frequent. Usually it is an accompaniment of rapid action as the bird seeks the security of some bushy patch or darts into the thick cover along the road.

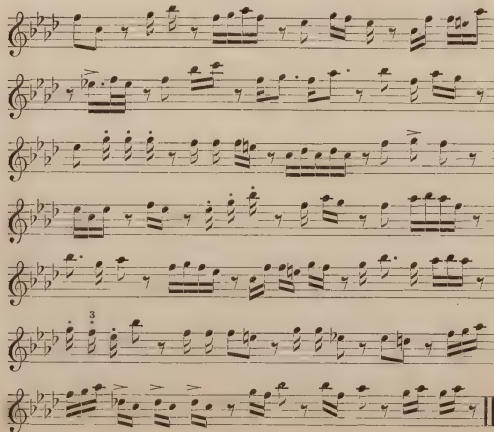
Auk, I, April, 1884, p. 132.

SOME BIRD SONGS.

BY SIMEON PEASE CHENEY.

CATBIRD. Auk, VIII, Jan., 1891, p. 32.

With something of the style of the Brown Thrush, the Catbird is not his equal in song. He is generally considered a mocking-bird, and does make use of the notes of different birds, delivering them in snatchy, disconnected fashion. It is easy to trace in the Catbird's singing the notes of the Red-eyed Vireo, the Brown Thrasher, Bluebird, Robin, and Yellow-breasted Chat. His performance on the whole is very interesting, given, as it is, in a lively manner, with an occasional tone truly sweet and musical. Much of his singing, however, is mere twitter, often little more than a succession of squeaks, too antic to be put on paper.



Notes—Eggs of Thrushes & Thrashers,
H. G. Parker.

Catbird (*Galeoscoptes carolinensis*). Probably a more abundant bird than even the ubiquitous Robin (*Merula migratoria*), and to him who is abroad in the early morning he exhibits a power of mimicry and delightful song which compares favorably with the efforts of any of his fellows, though lacking the melodious and liquid notes of the Wood Thrush.

The eggs are of a bluish green, and fade when exposed to light. In twenty-six nests examined in May, 1885, three contained sets of five eggs each, and the remainder had either four eggs or sets incomplete. Average size .98 x .75.

O. & O. XII, May, 1887 p. 71

CATBIRD (*Galeoscoptes carolinensis*).—Nest and five eggs. Collector N. A. Eddy, Lake Whitney, New Haven, Conn., May 22d, 1878; incubated.

O. & O. VII, Oct. 1882, p. 167.

May 20, 1881, took a set of five Cat Bird's eggs. Is this not an unusual number? I have examined dozens of nests of this bird, but never saw five eggs in a set until this year, when M. B. G. and myself have each taken a set of five.—W. W. Worthington, Shelter Island, New York.

O. & O. VII, Jul. 1882, p. 138

G. H. Berry, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

A set of five Catbird eggs,
spotted with dark brown,

O. & O. Vol. 18, July, 1893 p. 99

O. & O. VIII, Mar. 1883, p. 24

Eggs in a Set.—May 30, '81, found set of five Catbird's eggs—nest in hazel bush.

D. H. Eaton, Wolcott, Mass.

Eggs in a Set.—In answer to note in last number of O. and O. by W. W. W., of Shelter Island, as to Catbirds laying five eggs, I have known of several nests with that number in them, one found this year at Peace Dale, R. I., another in vicinity of Saratoga, N. Y., taken by G. C. Rich, and in my collection. This last was found several years ago.

Samuel H. Howard

O. & O. VIII, Jan 1883, p. 8

While driving sheep to pasture on the 12th of June, 1883, I observed a nest on the side of the road. Upon going to it, I found it was a Catbird's, (*Galeoscoptes carolinensis*), containing five eggs. I think this is the only one ever found containing so many in this locality.

Hartland, Conn. Notes.

J. M. Gosselin.

O. & O. IX, Mar. 1884, p. 36

CAT BIRD, (*Galeoscoptes carolinensis*), very plentiful here, and I only mention them as we have found a number of nests with five eggs in them.

Notes, Fairburg, Ill. A. H. Mundy

O. & O. VIII, Feb. 1883, p. 9

10000
DEPT. W. CHURCHILL
1893

Auk, X, July, 1893, pp. 303-4.

Nesting Habits of *Galeoscoptes carolinensis*. — This spring (1893) a pair of Catbirds (*Galeoscoptes carolinensis*) took it upon themselves to build a nest in a small but dense honeysuckle vine that runs over a wire netting under the very roof of the side veranda of my house. Not in the least daunted by either cats, children, or constant passers-by, they had evidently come to stay and rear a brood. It occurred to me that it might be a good opportunity to note the exact times of their egg-laying, and also the precise number of days included within the period of incubation. After the nest had been completed twenty-four hours the female deposited her first egg, and then laid three more, making four in all, upon the hours and days as set forth in the subjoined record.

First egg laid	May 11, 1893,	at 10.35 A. M.
Second " " "	12, " "	9.40 A. M.
Third " " "	13, " "	9.15 A. M.
Fourth " " "	14, " "	10.15 A. M.

Now what interested me most here was the fact that she not only laid an egg regularly every morning, but that it was also laid at about the same hour. The earliest one deposited was at 9:15 A. M. and the latest at 10:35, a difference of only one hour and twenty minutes. We must observe, too, that eggs one and four were laid later than eggs two and three. 9/

For the first few days she sat upon them only at irregular intervals, and was often absent an hour or more, but this habit soon changed after that time, when she finally gave them her undivided attention. On May 25 there were no birds hatched at dark, but on the morning of the 26th three young were in the nest, and the fourth egg, yet unhatched. That is, hatching took place during the night of the 25th. The fourth egg was not hatched until the night of the 26th. Here it will be as well to note that the mother sat on the eggs from dark until daylight, and it is fair to presume that egg number one was among those constituting the first three hatched. But if this be so the first egg was fourteen days in hatching; the second (?) but thirteen days, and the third (?) but twelve days. Again presuming that egg number four was not hatched until the night of the 26th, it, too, was but twelve days before the embryo escaped from it. This is taking it for granted that the first three eggs laid were also the first three hatched; I had no means of assuring myself of this, as I feared if I marked the eggs in any way she might abandon them, and this part of the record would be lost altogether.

At 6:45 P. M. on June 5, all the birds left the nest together. No one was near it at the time, and there appeared to be no special disturbing cause. There was threatening weather, to be sure, and low rumbling thunder at the time, but no lightning nor loud reports. We were dining at that hour, and my first knowledge of their having left the nest was my attention being called to a young one near the open dining-room door, which led out on the veranda. All the young were easily made prisoners on the ground, and I consigned them to a comfortable cage, which I hung up under the roof close to the nest. Here the parents faithfully fed them through the cage wires until noon of June 8, at which time any one of them could fly fifty or sixty feet with considerable vigor. Fearing that something might happen to them in the cage, at the time just mentioned I took them all down to the lower end of my garden and let them go in the dense underbrush that was overshadowed by numbers of second growth oaks and other trees. The parents were overjoyed at their escape, and it is my hope that none of them fell prey to the many prowling cats about, two of which I had shot in their attempts to get them the last few days the birds remained in the nest. It is not often that the opportunity offers to make as exact notes of the times of egg-laying of birds as are here presented, and I can but trust that they may be of use to those who in the future may have similar chances to observe, and who may care to compare their observations with those of mine. — R. W. SHUFELDT.
Tukoma, D. C.

General Notes.

Nesting Habits of *Galeoscoptes carolinensis*.—This spring (1893) a pair of Catbirds (*Galeoscoptes carolinensis*) took it upon themselves to build a nest in a small but dense honeysuckle vine that runs over a wire netting under the very roof of the side veranda of my house. Not in the least daunted by either cats, children, or constant passers-by, they had evidently come to stay and rear a brood. It occurred to me that it might be a good opportunity to note the exact times of their egg-laying, and also the precise number of days included within the period of incubation. After the nest had been completed twenty-four hours the female deposited her first egg, and then laid three more, making four in all, upon the hours and days as set forth in the subjoined record.

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The Catbird of the West.

I invite a close inspection of this bird as he seems to be a much different fellow from the noisy bird of the East. I have never found it at this elevation (8513 feet) but in the Missouri River region I had ample opportunity to study the bird.

At Fort Laramie, Wyoming, it is perhaps the most abundant, but if you do not look for him he will not be seen; frequenting the dense undergrowth along the streams and building its nest in the darkest and most secluded places, it silently leaves its nest and is seen no more until the intruder is well out of the way. No noisy, cat-like cry is heard at any time, it is only at sunrise and sunset that he is heard singing a song that is surpassed by none of the thrushes except the mockingbird. In fact, he is a fine mimic himself and unless you can see and catch your bird you will think the thicket is full of song birds. The different notes follow so closely that you cannot distinguish where one begins or the other leaves off, and it is difficult to make up your mind but that several birds are singing at once.

When the nest is robbed the bird makes the best of his lot; not a grumble is heard, but stifling his silent grief he seeks a still more secluded spot and again builds, and this time his nest is safe, for it will be placed in the midst of bushes where perhaps the nest may be in full sight. No man will care to try and reach it, unless he wishes to lose his clothes and several pounds of skin and flesh. Bulberry bushes have long sharp thorns, and in the midst of these is generally the second nest.

The birds seem to be on intimate terms with the Shrike, as I have seen them breeding in the same bush, but each seemed to hold undisputed possession of his particular side of the bush. Perhaps the Shrike is fond of music and lets the Catbird build near him that his mate may enjoy the evening concert. At any rate, the last named is not much of a warbler during the breeding season, although he can sing beautifully and does in the cold winter evenings, and strange to say when he is all alone, with snow, ice and leafless trees to set off his song. Perhaps this is what makes it so beautiful.

O. & O. XII, Jun. 1887 p. 93.

Has any one ever noticed any symptoms of irregularity in the laying of the Cardinal? I have on several occasions known them to miss a day or two while laying, and on one occasion in 1885 I found a nest containing one egg nearly fresh, one about one third incubated, and one about two thirds incubated. Another point in connection with the Cardinal is that nearly twenty-five per cent. of all nests found will have broken eggs in them or else the eggs will be destroyed before the set is completed. I think the Catbird is mostly responsible for this as the nests are usually placed in situations where Catbirds abound, and I once found one sitting on the edge of a Cardinal's nest which contained broken eggs.

Apropos of the Catbird's egg-eating propensities, I saw one last summer settle on a rock near our house with something in his bill, and on scaring him he left the remains of an egg of his own species on the rock and departed, so I suppose we must dub him cannibal as well as thief.

Raleigh N. C. C. S. Brimley.

O. & O. XV. May, 1890. p. 66.

Bird destruction
D. S. Stone

I am fully satisfied that the Catbirds do more toward the extermination of many small birds than all the men, boys & cats.

O. & O. XI. Nov. 1886. p. 176.

Bird destruction
D. S. Stone

Several years ago my attention was called to the large number of Chipping Sparrow's nests that were empty and overturned. For every nest with young of this kind, I find the average is a little more than ten that have been despoiled. This is the work of Catbirds, for I have seen them robbing the nests many times.

O. & O. XI. Nov. 1886. p. 176

Common Names of American Birds — Ingersoll.

Galeoscoptes carolinensis, Cat-bird, was a name early and spontaneously decided upon for this Thrush, whose *meowing* note at once suggests it. *Cat Flycatcher* (Pennant), *Merle Catbird*, *Chat* (Canada), *Katsafogel* (Penna. Germ.) and *Zorzal gato* (Cuban), all ring changes upon this point; probably Bartram's name *Chicken-bird* belongs to the same category. Color is designated in *Blackbird* (Bermudas — where also it is properly called *Mockingbird*), and in D'Orbigny's French name *Merle à derriere roux*, — the Red vented Blackbird.

Bull. N. O. C. 8, April, 1893, 75.

1985. *The Catbird*. By Wm. L. Kells. *Ibid.*, pp. 12-15. — In Ontario.

For. & Oologist's Semi-annual, Vol. 2. No. 2.

1796. *Bird Notes from Missouri*. By Jasper Hines. — Mention of *Mimus polyglottus*, *Harporhynchus rufus* and *Galeoscoptes carolinensis*. *For. & Stream*, Vol. 38, Aug. 22, p. 83.

Filamenter Galeoscoptes carolinensis.

927. *The Catbird*. By Wilmot. *Ibid.*, p. 45. — Its defence, against 'Byrne.' (See above, No. 923) *For. & Stream*, XXIII

935. *Fruit-eating Birds*. *Ibid.*, p. 105. — Two articles — (1) by 'Wilmot' against 'Picket,' and (2) by Wakeman Holberton in defence of the Catbird. *For. & Stream*, XXIV

942. *The Catbird*. By Wilmot. *Ibid.*, p. 165. — In its defence. Incidentally *Passer domesticus* is arraigned as 'simply immense' on grapes, exceeding in its destruction of this fruit 'anything that wears feathers.'

For. & Stream, XXIII

133. *Tipula Eggs in the Stomachs of Catbirds*. By S. A. Forbes. with editorial comment (by C. V. Riley). *Ibid.*, p. 24. *Amer. Entomologist*, 1

680. *Eggs in a Set*. By Snowdon Howland. *Ibid.*, p. 8. — Large clutches of *Catbird*, Robin, etc., reported, and the nesting in odd places by other species. *C. & O.*, Vol. VIII

The Oologist, 1611. *An Unusual Nesting Site; Peculiar Eggs*. By W[illiam] N. C[olton]. *Ibid.*, Vol. VI, No. 1, Jan., 1889, p. 9. — *Galeoscoptes carolinensis*. *Ank*, VII, Jan. 1890, p. 45.

723. *Birds in Confinement*. By Annie Trumbull Slosson. *Ibid.*, p. 55. — An albinistic *Catbird*, a Myrtle Bird, and Chewink. *O. & O.*, Vol. VIII

Correspondence.

For a note of *leatbird* see note on *owlbird*.

O. & O. XV, Mar. 1890, p. 48.

886. *The Catbird*. (*Mimus Carolinensis*.) By Wilmot. *Ibid.*, May 15, p. 302. — On its habits. *For. & Stream*, XXII

Lucas on the Osteology of the Thrushes and Wrens.*—Mr. Lucas concludes "that the Miminae hold a somewhat intermediate position between the Wrens and Thrushes, and if the characters described are of sufficient value to be considered *family* characters (which is extremely doubtful) each of the groups under consideration seems to have equal right in that respect.

"The Wrens, as represented by the species in hand, form a harmonious group, agreeing very closely with one another in their osteology, and presenting some well-marked distinctive characters.

"The Thrushes also, when compared with the Wrens, present well-defined characters, and while differing among themselves more than do the Wrens, these differences are nevertheless very slight.

"Aside from *Galeoscoptes*, the Miminae are fairly well marked, having a very characteristic shape to the maxillo-palatine process. This maxillo-palatine is so entirely different from that of the Wrens that from what little experience I have had I should hesitate to unite two groups so dissimilar in this respect. On the other hand, *Galeoscoptes* has such decided leanings toward the Thrushes, not only in its skull, but in other portions of the skeleton, that it would seem to connect them with the Miminae. Be this as it may, *Galeoscoptes* is certainly nearer to the Thrushes than any other member of its group, while *Harporhynchus* seems to be the farthest removed."

It would thus seem that the position of the Miminae as a subfamily of the Turridae was more in accordance with the osteological characters of the Miminae than its present position among the Troglodytidae. "In fact," says Mr. Lucas, "it seems more and more clear that the Miminae should not be included in the very sharply defined family Troglodytidae." On the other hand, he believes that the true affinities of both *Chamaea* and *Certhia* are with the Wrens.

Mr. Lucas's important paper is illustrated with figures of the skull, sternum, and pelvis in *Merula*, *Campylorhynchus*, and *Harporhynchus*.—J. A. A.

* Notes on the Osteology of the Thrushes, Miminae, and Wrens. By Frederic A. Lucas. Proc. U.S. Nat. Mus., 1888, pp. 173-180.

Thaumatococcus
rupestris

Forporshyrachus rufus

1889	
April	30 ² 1889. 20 ¹⁸⁸ Concord 25 ¹⁸ 26 ¹⁸ 27 ¹⁸ 20 ¹⁸ June 1891.
May	5 ¹⁸ 14 ¹⁸ (not 4-18) 17 ¹⁸ 30 ¹⁸ 1889. 2 ¹⁸ 7 ¹⁸ 9 ¹⁸ 15 ¹⁸ 16 ¹⁸ 17 ¹⁸ 27 ¹⁸ 30 ¹⁸ 31 ¹⁸ 1890.
June	3 ¹⁸ 1889. 1 ¹⁸ 2 ¹⁸ 3 ¹⁸ 4 ¹⁸ 5 ¹⁸ 8 ¹⁸ 10 ¹⁸ 12 ¹⁸ 13 ¹⁸ 14 ¹⁸ 21 ¹⁸ 24 ¹⁸ 25 ¹⁸ 28 ¹⁸ 1890. 1 ¹⁸ 1891.
"	1 ¹⁸ 2 ¹⁸ 3 ¹⁸ 4 ¹⁸ 5 ¹⁸ 6 ¹⁸ 7 ¹⁸ 8 ¹⁸ 12 ¹⁸ 13 ¹⁸ 14 ¹⁸ 15 ¹⁸ 17 ¹⁸ 20 ¹⁸ 23 ¹⁸ 29 ¹⁸ Concord 1892.
"	26 ¹⁸ 27 ¹⁸ 28 ¹⁸ 30 ¹⁸ Concord 1893.
"	7 ¹⁸ 9 ¹⁸ 4 ¹⁸ 5 ¹⁸ 9 ¹⁸ 10 ¹⁸ 11 ¹⁸ 1894.
July	6 ¹⁸ 1890. 1 ¹⁸ 4 ¹⁸ 5 ¹⁸ (dunest) 6 ¹⁸ 7 ¹⁸ 8 ¹⁸ 9 ¹⁸ 14 ¹⁸ 19 ¹⁸ 26 ¹⁸ 28 ¹⁸ Concord 1892.
"	1 ¹⁸ 16 ¹⁸ (Bastwick's garden) 17 ¹⁸ 18 ¹⁸ 23 ¹⁸ 28 ¹⁸ 30 ¹⁸ Concord 1893.
"	2 ¹⁸ 1894.
Aug.	2 ¹⁸ 1890.
"	4 ¹⁸ 24 ¹⁸ 30 ¹⁸ Concord 1892. 4 ¹⁸ 6 ¹⁸ 10 ¹⁸ Concord 1893.
"	9 ¹⁸ 1893.
Sept.	1 ¹⁸ 5 ¹⁸ 7 ¹⁸ 9 ¹⁸ 20 ¹⁸ 24 ¹⁸ 25 ¹⁸ Concord 1892. 2 ¹⁸ 9 ¹⁸ 10 ¹⁸ 13 ¹⁸ (Bull H.) Concord 1893.
May	3 ¹⁸ 1896.
Oct.	18 ¹⁸ Concord 1892.
Dec.	15 ¹⁸ 1894.
January	1 ¹⁸ 1895.
April	26 ¹⁸ 27 ¹⁸ 28 ¹⁸ 29 ¹⁸ 30 ¹⁸ (N. F. F. F.) 29 ¹⁸ 30 ¹⁸ .
"	27 ¹⁸ (F. F.)
"	20 ¹⁸ (F. F.) 1895. 16 ¹⁸ B. Concord 22 ¹⁸ 27 ¹⁸ 28 ¹⁸ 16 ¹⁸ (F. F.) 18 ¹⁸ (F. F.) 19 ¹⁸ (F. F.) 1896.
May	9 ¹⁸ 10 ¹⁸ 11 ¹⁸ 12 ¹⁸ 17 ¹⁸ 23 ¹⁸ 24 ¹⁸ 25 ¹⁸ 28 ¹⁸ 31 ¹⁸ 1891.
"	2 ¹⁸ 3 ¹⁸ 4 ¹⁸ 5 ¹⁸ 6 ¹⁸ 7 ¹⁸ 8 ¹⁸ 9 ¹⁸ 10 ¹⁸ 11 ¹⁸ 12 ¹⁸ 13 ¹⁸ 14 ¹⁸ 15 ¹⁸ 17 ¹⁸ 18 ¹⁸ 19 ¹⁸ 20 ¹⁸ 21 ¹⁸ 23 ¹⁸ 24 ¹⁸ 25 ¹⁸ 27 ¹⁸ 28 ¹⁸ 29 ¹⁸ 30 ¹⁸ Concord 1892.
"	1 ¹⁸ 9 ¹⁸ 10 ¹⁸ 11 ¹⁸ 12 ¹⁸ 13 ¹⁸ 14 ¹⁸ 15 ¹⁸ 16 ¹⁸ 17 ¹⁸ 18 ¹⁸ 19 ¹⁸ 20 ¹⁸ 21 ¹⁸ 22 ¹⁸ 23 ¹⁸ 24 ¹⁸ 25 ¹⁸ 26 ¹⁸ 27 ¹⁸ 28 ¹⁸ 29 ¹⁸ 30 ¹⁸ Concord 1893.
"	2 ¹⁸ 3 ¹⁸ 4 ¹⁸ 5 ¹⁸ 6 ¹⁸ 8 ¹⁸ 10 ¹⁸ 14 ¹⁸ 15 ¹⁸ 20 ¹⁸ 26 ¹⁸ 27 ¹⁸ 1894.
"	4 ¹⁸ 5 ¹⁸ 6 ¹⁸ 7 ¹⁸ 11 ¹⁸ 12 ¹⁸ 21 ¹⁸ 23 ¹⁸ 1895.

H. rufus.

Harporhynchus rufus.

1889 Mass.

May 8 Nahant. - "This afternoon at Nahant in crossing the longer On beach
beach I started a Thrasher from the beach grass. He grass on a
looked queer enough and very homisick" (D. Perry letter May 8/89) Sea beach.
This note is interesting both on account of the locality and date
the former seeming to show that the bird was a migrant not as
yet settled.

" 14 Waltham. - A nest with four eggs on hillside among birches Nest on
deeply sunk in ground under fallen birch top. ground with
The ♀ started off when I was within three or four feet, ran a 4 eggs
few yards very briefly, then flew disappearing in a thicket
and making no complaint. I did not molest the nest

" 30 Belmont. - Thrashers still in full song. I heard at least six ♂♂ Still in full
in the Cotton area region between 10 and 12 A.M. the song
weather cloudy & cool.

June 16 Batchelder heard several in full song. I have not been Still singing
on their grounds since May 30th.

1890

May 19 Waltham - Lincoln - Belmont. During a drive of 20 miles in these
towns, the day warm & clear, I heard only three birds
singing. Is it possible that the singing is already declining
or are the resident (summer) birds scarcer this year. Early in
May Thrashers were very numerous in this region.

1895

June 24 Wareham. "I think there are only about half as many
Brown Thrashers & Towhees here as usual" (D. Perry
letter June 24, 1895) [Doubtless they were
diminished in the South last winter, they are
both much less numerous than usual in New Bedford Co.]

Harporhynchus rufus

1890 Mass.

June 12 Belmont. At least a few Thrashers are still in full song. I heard Stell singing two this morning and two at Dedbury on the 10th.

1894-95

Dec. 15 to Arlington - In an old pasture ground up to cedars & a bird
March 4 Babery bushes on a hillside sloping down towards Arlington from passes the
Arlington Heights Arthur Simon found a Mass. Thrasher on certain winter
Dec. 15th. On the 18th he showed the bird to Mr. W. Foxon
who kept a close watch over him through the entire remainder
of the winter which was unusually severe with a good deal
of snow. The bird probably would have perished had not
Mr. Foxon fed him regularly once or twice each week with
Indian meal mush. This he ate greedily. One of his
wings had been injured in some way so that it drooped
perceptibly but nevertheless he could fly perfectly well, at
least for short distances but probably not sufficiently
strongly to perform the usual migration. He remained
in the same spot through January & February. Mr. W. Foxon
saw him last on March 3rd but C. E. Foxon found
him in the usual place on the next day (March 4) after
which he could not be found by anyone.

1895-96

Jan. & Feb. Baldwinville (a village in Templeton, Worcester Co.) Purdie tells Winters
me that a friend who lives in this village has decided
to him a bird which can be nothing but a Thrasher (his
friend when showed a colored plate of *H. rufus* at once said
that it was his bird) and which he has seen almost
daily ~~for the~~ during January & up to Feb. 6, always in
the same place near or under a pile of boards close to
a mill. It flew into the mill one day & was caught but
afterwards released

A bird useth,

Harporhynchus rufus. (No. 1)

May 6. Lancaster. Opposite the entrance to Derby's lane a Brown Thrasher, sitting in the top of a gray birch was flooding the air with music. I sat down on a wall near him & listened long and attentively, comparing the performance with that of the Song Thrush of England which is still fresh in my memory. The two are very similar but that of our bird is, as I confessed to myself this morning, undeniably inferior. It is more rapid and confused and has fewer round, full notes.

May 20. I also heard a Brown Thrasher interpolate a perfect imitation of the Oven-bird's 'tea-sha' notes in its song.

May 31 There were many common birds singing in the Donesdale woods. A Thrasher had a peculiar hoarse voice as if it was suffering from a bad cold. Actually one could not hear any portion of its song 100 yds. away although the evening was almost perfectly still.

June 1 One of my men showed me a Thrasher's nest built on the ground among dry oak leaves at the foot of a cluster of oak sprouts on the steep hillside near my cabin. The locality was very open and exposed and after the bird had left the nest the three eggs which it contained were conspicuous yards away for the nest was in no way arched over or concealed by either leaves or branches.

Massachusetts.

Harporhynchus rufus. (no. 2.)

1882.

June 7. Concord. On reaching the house Mr. Buttrick picked up half the shell of a Thrasher's egg directly in front of my door. Fearing some accident to the nest which is near the path about 50 yards from the house I went to it but found the bird sitting. On starting her off I found that the three eggs had all hatched. I looked at them last about noon on the 5th. The young today seemed very large for birds not more than two days from the shell and were already covered with large patches of blackish hairy down. The old bird has become so confident that she will almost let me touch her on the nest and on being driven off she no longer makes any sound although she used to scold me roundly.

June 13. Visiting the Brown Thrasher's nest I found one of the old birds sitting or rather standing over the nest shielding the young from the hot sun. She allowed me to get within four feet of her but while I was trying to photograph her took the alarm and fled up into the bushes where she sat quietly chirping occasionally. The young are now nearly as large as bluebirds and their eyes are open. Their bills are flesh colored. The edges of the gape yellowish-white. The feathers of the first plumage are beginning to appear along the median line of the back, on the shoulders, & on the occiput. Elsewhere they are covered with a long hairy down of a dark brown color. I am sure there were three young in this nest this forenoon.

Passerulidae.

Harporhynchus rufus. (no. 3.)

1874.

June 13. but on visiting it at 3 P.M. I found only two. The old birds were absent but one soon returned & discovering me set up a scolding tcha-a-a which quickly brought its mate also. Both were singularly bold & courageous coming repeatedly within less than three feet of my head and flitting excitedly from twig to twig, jerking their long tails up, down, & sideways, occasionally spreading them wide, flitting the wings with a quick, nervous motion and scolding me most vehemently. At first they used the tcha-a-a note exclusively but both soon changed this for the loud short cry which sounds so much like a smacking kiss. They also occasionally gave the low vey like phew and twice the male, doubtless under the influence of strong excitement, uttered half a dozen notes of his usual song in a soft undertone sitting the while within less than two yards of me. Their bold, animated bearing and intense devotion to their young impressed me deeply.

June 15. I visited the Brown Thrasher's nest at 3 P.M. and found the female sitting or rather standing over the young her feet spread wide apart clutching opposite sides of the nest. She seemed to be merely shielding the young from the sun. The young have increased in size markedly since my last visit and are now feathered over their entire upper parts with a plumage of a pale reddish brown lighter & more yellowish than that of their parents.

Massachusetts.

Harporhynchus rufus. (No. 4.)

1870

June 17. Concord. Visiting the Thrasher's nest at 10 A. M. we found the young had left it. They must have been in the bushes near by for the old birds came and scolded us + one of them had food in its bill.

June 20 At about 4 P.M. the Brown Thrasher whose young left the nest near my cabin on either the 16th or 17th of this month and who has been silent since the 13th began singing again and serenaded me for ten minutes or more as I sat in my cabin visiting these notes. I wonder if his mate is preparing another nest.

June 23. Among others I heard two Thrashers (in full song up to 9 a.m.) one near my cabin, the other in the woods on the opposite side of the river. I now begin to think that they must have second nests.

July 5. A Thrasher also sang freely near this lane for 10-minutes or more.

July 7. As I am walking back along the road near the large white oak I hear a low plaintive cry (yips) which seems to come now from in front now from behind me. After walking hurriedly but stealthily back + forth I at length see something which looks very like a Toad hopping along in the middle of the road at my feet. It proves to be a young Thrasher scarce half grown and unable to fly. As I pick it up it yips more loudly and the parent bird appears and

Massachusetts.

Harpus hyemalis rufus. (p. 3.)

1892.

flutter about in great distress calling tee, tee and uttering a scolding che-a-a. I do not hear the phew which my birds with young at Ball's Well gave so often.

July 9 ? In a swamp behind the hill a Thrasher, Towhee and Gasbeak were singing vigorously and steadily. This is the only Thrasher that I have heard in full song for several days. Can it have a second nest? Probably the cool, cloudy weather tempted it to raise up its voice again.

Arlington Dec. 18/94

Dear Brewster:

Arthur Gilman told me yesterday that he saw a Brown Thrush in Arlington last Saturday. I went to the place with him yesterday, but without success. This afternoon I went there again and found the bird in just the place that Arthur pointed out to me. He seems to be in perfect condition & lively.

I was very sorry that the male
him in good condition & very eager for the crum of bread that I threw to him. This experiment pleased me so well that I went again after dinner, taking with me some Indian meal & milk, which he ate with much apparent relish. I suppose

24 to 30 Michigan Ave.

CHICAGO.

Dear Walter:-

Feb. 26, 1903

Answering your last favor I am satisfied that the record of the Brown Thrush for Feb. was not mine, and as no name was given in the record I should be more inclined to think it was an error in some way which cannot be explained now. Unless something could be found more definite I should cancel it.

Yours,
J. D.

DEANE BROS. & LINCOLN,

I was unable to talk
 ten with you on Sun-
 day. I had an engagement
 & spent the evening in
 Haverley
 Sincerely
 J. T. Tamm

24 to 30 Michigan Ave.

CHICAGO.

Feb. 26, 1903

Dear Walter; -

Answering your last favor I am satis-
 fied that the record of the brown thrush
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Yours
 J. T. Tamm

DEANE BROS. & LINCOLN,

Form 2, 10-14, 1-M

the call &
 him in good condition
 & very eager for the crup
 of bread that I threw
 to him. This experiment
 pleased me so well that
 went again after dinner,
 taking with me some
 Indian meal & milk,
 which he ate with much
 apparent relish. I suppose

Arlington
Dec. 20/94

Dear Brewster:

I went this morning to see how our Brown Thrush had weathered the late storm. Found him in good condition & very eager for the crumbs of bread that I threw to him. This experiment pleased me so well that went again after dinner, taking with me some Indian meal & milk, which he ate with much apparent relish. I suppose

24 to 30 Michigan Ave.

CHICAGO.

Dear Walter; -

Feb. 26, 1903

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Yours,
D. B.

DEANE BROS. & LINCOLN,

Form 2, 10-14, 1-X

Received
Feb. 12 1894
Relic
Recd. 106
Dec. 15, 1890.
Chicago, 190

P. S. According to Dresser
et al., those Swiss Ptarmigan are Lagopus mutus,
which is indistinguishable
in winter dress from L.
impestris.

I am defeating in this way
any attempt to determine
whether this bird can
endure a New England
winter without artificial
aid, but it is a very
pleasant thing to do,
nevertheless.

There were two Quails
near by and a Yellow-
rump (it is the old Fel-
low-rump ground).

Wishing you a happy
New Year
Yours sincerely
W. Faxon

7000
Chicago, Ill.
Feb. 12 1890
Received

24 to 30 Michigan Ave.
CHICAGO.

Dear Walter; -

Feb. 26, 1903

Answering your last favor I am satis-
fied that the record of the brown thrush
for Feb. was not mine, and as no name was
given in the record I should be more inclined
to think it was an error in some way which
cannot be explained now. Unless something
could be found more definite I should cancel
it.

Yours
W. F.

DEANE BRO'S & LINCOLN,

Harporhynchus rufus.

Concord, Mass.

1897. The first birds seen on Ball's Hall, Apr. 25th. Song
April. heard that morning. By April 30th four birds were established,
one opposite the cabin on the W. Bedford shore, two opposite
Davis's Hill, one above Benson's house, none on any part of my
land. One of the birds opposite Davis's Hill regularly and at
frequent intervals interpolated in his song the full call (four
whistles) of Totanus melanoleucus, imitating them exactly.
Thrice, also, I heard him give the bob-white of the Quail. I
have never before heard a Thrasher mock another bird. This
Thrasher was a remarkably fine singer.

Harporhynchus rufus.

Concord, Mass.

A fine singer.

1898. The Brown Thrashers are still in full song. A fine-
June 21. voiced bird which inhabits the oak sprouts on the hill side
just above the cabin serenades us with his rich and varied
music at morning and evening as well as at frequent intervals
during the day. He does not appear to have any fixed or fa-
vorite singing station but he always perches high up among
the oaks and often on their topmost sprays.

Peterborough, New Hampshire.

1898. Very common, especially in thickets along the roadsides
July 5 and in bush-grown pastures. Silent during the whole stay.
to
Aug. 15.

Birds of Toronto, Canada,
by James H. Fleming,
Part II, Land Birds,
Auk, XXIV, Jan., 1907, p.85.

271. *Toxostoma rufum*. BROWN THRASHER.— Regular summer resident, fairly common, April 21 to September 25; breeds.

Report made to the Committee
Coast of Maine. T. A. Montgomery, Jr.

705. Brown Thrasher. I saw one at
Boothbay.

Q. 1220, 12, Nov. 1890, p. 102

Birds of Hillsboro Co. N.H. June 27, '92
Arthur M. Farmer, Amoskeag, N.H.

[Brown Thrasher, saw one individual.

O. & O Vol. 17, Sept. 1892 p. 136

Birds Obs. at Moultonboro, N.H.
July 21-Aug. 11, 1888. F.H. Allen

Harporhynchus rufus.—One seen.

Auk, VI. Jan., 1889. p. 79

Birds Obs. at Bridgewater, N.H.
July 12-Sept. 4, 1888. F.H. Allen

Harporhynchus rufus.—Common.

Auk, VI. Jan., 1889. p. 77

Birds Obsd. near Holderness, N.H.
June 4-12, '85, and 4-11, '86. W. Faxon

60. Harporhynchus rufus. BROWN THRASHER.—Common.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p. 151

Wolfeboro, N.H. June 18-1889..

4. Harporhynchus rufus. One

E. Mass. 1885.

43. Harporhynchus rufus. June 16

Princeton & Rutland, Mass. Aug. 2-1885

3. Harporhynchus rufus. Three. Silent

Princeton & No. Rutland, Mass. June 18-1886.

5. Harporhynchus rufus. Abundant

Winchendon, Mass. June, 1888.

Har. rufus 12 4 14 2 16 2 17 2 ✓

Falmouth, Mass. 1889

3. Harporhynchus rufus July 4th 1889

Common 1889 Thomas H.M.

1889.

Harporhynchus rufus

July 21-Aug. 11, 1888

1888-89. H. Allen

Mass. (Wickenden)

1887

June 25³ - 26² 1887

" 12⁴ - 14⁴ 16² 17² 1888

Although I saw only two Bailey asserts that it is common - "quite as numerous as the Robin".

Harporhynchus rufus.

Mass. (Wickenden)

1888

Apr. 28² & Sutton

Harporhynchus rufus.

1888

Brown Thrush

S. W. Denton.

May 6. Shot one & heard others.

" 9. Saw 3 + " "

" 11 " several

" 20 Brought 6 sets from an Ill. collector who took them all this year.

May 16. Saw a pair

May 25 Found first nest today. Placed in cedar tree 2 feet from ground & contained 4 fresh eggs.

W. Middlesex Co. Mass.

June 25-30, 1889.

Common everywhere in the low country about Ashby especially in roadside thickets from which they often ventured to indulge in their favorite dust bathing in the sandy soil. If disturbed by an approaching carriage they usually shook the dust from their feathers, stood erect for a moment, then with head & tail in line & carried horizontally glided by a swift run into the bushes. They also often ran across the road just in front of our house in this manner, looking much more like squirrels than birds.

During our entire stay these Thrushes sang freely morning & evening and through the day also in lowering weather.

Ank. XIII, April, 1898, pp. 176-7.
A Brown Thrasher (*Harporhynchus rufus*) in Massachusetts in Winter.—On December 15, 1894, I discovered a Brown Thrasher in Arlington, Mass. I made my identification as sure as possible without shooting the bird, because I knew that the middle of December was later than this bird usually remains in Massachusetts. A few days after I first saw him, Mr. Walter Faxon, to whom I had reported my observations, again found the bird in almost exactly the same spot.

From Dec. 15 until Christmas, the bird was visited regularly, and he seemed to be able to supply himself with food; but on Dec. 27, there came the first heavy snowstorm of the winter, covering the ground with from four to five inches of snow, on top of which was a crust strong enough to bear a man's weight. With this snow on the ground, it seemed probable that the Brown Thrasher would be unable to get food enough to keep alive. Consequently, from Dec. 27 till March, we took food to him regularly, at least as often as twice a week. We gave him yellow corn meal soaked in water or milk for his staple diet. This food we sometimes varied with bread, pieces of meat cut fine, meal-worms, etc. He always ate whatever we gave him with a good appetite, as soon as we were a few yards off. By March 5, the snow had melted away in many spots, and we saw the bird for the last time on that day.

When at rest, he carried his left wing lower than the right. For this reason we supposed that he had been wounded in the wing, and so prevented from making the long autumnal migration. Whether or not he would have been able to take care of himself without outside help we have no means of knowing; but he ate what we brought him so eagerly, and so soon after we offered it to him, that it seemed probable that he got very little other food after the first heavy snowfall.—ARTHUR SCOTT GILMAN, Cambridge, Mass.

Brown Thrasher [Feb. 28, 1905] Resp. Monday

Dear Brewster,
By all means use the Brown Thrasher record.
The bird is all right & shows no signs of having been injured. Do you know that a Mockingbird has wintered in the Arnold Arboretum?

I shall be glad to see you at Museum any time you will afford, except Friday afternoon.

[Walter Faxon].

A Winter Record of the Brown Thrasher in Lancaster, Mass.—During this last winter (1912-1913) a Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*) took up his residence in a Colorado Blue Spruce (*Picea pungens*) in front of my greenhouse and apparently had a very comfortable time of it. My gardener became very much interested and every day threw out food and also put the greenhouse cat to "rest."

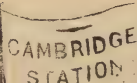
The bird as far as I could see was not injured or crippled in the least. February 24 and 25, my man said he sang, but as a cold snap came on the 26th, he stopped and never tried it again all winter.—JOHN E. THAYER, Lancaster, Mass.

Ank 30, July, 1913. p. 435-

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POSTAL CARD

THE SPACE BELOW IS FOR THE ADDRESS ONLY.

Mr. Wm. Brewster
 145 Brattle St.
 Cambridge
 Mass.

A Winter Record of the Brown Thrasher in Lancaster, Mass.—During this last winter (1912-1913) a Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*) took up his residence in a Colorado Blue Spruce (*Picea pungens*) in front of my greenhouse and apparently had a very comfortable time of it. My gardener became very much interested and every day threw out food and also put the greenhouse cat to "rest."

The bird as far as I could see was not injured or crippled in the least. February 24 and 25, my man said he sang, but as a cold snap came on the 26th, he stopped and never tried it again all winter.—JOHN E. THAYER, Lancaster, Mass.

Ank 30, July, 1913, p. 435-

Brown Thrasher Wintering in Mass.— There are one or two records of the Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*) having been seen in Massachusetts late in the winter or during one month of the winter. On January 3 I saw an individual, which I took to be a male, sitting in some low bushes beside the Boston and Albany R. R. tracks on the Brookline side of the Parkway near the Longwood station. He seemed to be in good

health and while secretive was fairly tame and up to the present writing (February 28) he has remained within a hundred yards of the place where I first found him. A pair of Thrashers nested here last summer and, I suppose, it is more than likely this bird was one of the pair. There has been cracked corn scattered near the thicket in which he makes his home and there is a large chunk of suet in a tree near by, but I have not seen him touch either, and have watched him scratching among the dry leaves and feeding on the ground. Several friends have seen and watched the Thrasher with me. The following are the dates on which I have seen him: January 3, 14, 17, 24, 31, February 7, 12, 21, 28.— CHARLES B. FLOYD, *Brookline, Mass.*

Auk XXII. July 1915. p. 370-371.

Winter Birds at Wareham, Mass.

Brown Thrasher, Toxostoma rufum, one.

— *G. A. Robbins*

Auk XXII. Oct. 1915. p. 499-500.

Occurrence of the Brown Thrush in
Winter in Rhode Island.

Mr. W. J. Wheelock of Johnston, R. I., secured in that town on Jan. 30, 1886, a specimen of the Brown Thrush (*Harporhynchus rufus*). We have in our possession a skin of the same species, purchased of Southwick & Jencks, which *was said* to have been taken at Pawtucket, R. I., in February, 1882.

O. & O. XI. Jun. 1886. p. 84.

Connecticut, June, 1893,

Harporhynchus angus

June 4th

Fairfield

" 5³ 6² 7² 8² 9³ 10³ 11³ 12³ } Saybrook

" 13⁶ 14⁶ 15⁶ 18³ 19³

21⁶ 23⁴ 24⁶

Andover

have numerous other sets in
but get none & very few
are included

Birds observed in Naval Hospital
Brooklyn, Brooklyn. G. H. Coues

17. *Harporhynchus rufus*. BROWN THRUSH.—Common; breeds.

Bull. N. O. C. 4, Jan., 1879, p. 32

Birds of the Adirondack Region.
O. H. Merriam.

8. *Harporhynchus rufus* (Linn.) Caban. BROWN THRASHER.—Occurs with the last and the Wood Thrush about the western foot-hills and borders of this region.

Bull. N. O. C. 8, Oct. 1881, p. 226

Arrivals of Mig'y Birds, Spring-1886,
Central Park, N. Y. City. A. G. Fairer, Jr.

April 24, *Harporhynchus rufus*, (705). Brown
Thrasher.

O. & O. XI, July, 1886, p. 109

Birds of the Adirondack Region.
Alden Loring.

13. Brown Thrasher. This beautiful songster is quite a common resident, desiring thick brush for its nesting place. I have not had much opportunity to observe these birds in their haunts, and therefore cannot give much of a description of them.

O. & O. XV, June, 1890, p. 81

Bird News from Central New York.

Harporhynchus rufus. BROWN THRASHER.—July 8, 1897, I found these birds very common a few miles northeast of North Bay in the town of Vienna, evidently resident. Entered before as "occasional."—EGBERT BAGG, *Utica, N. Y.* Auk, XVII, April, 1900, p. 172.

Notes on the birds of Madison County, New York,
with especial reference to Embury's recent list.

33. *Toxostoma rufum*. BROWN THRASHER.—Mr. Embury records a single specimen. The bird is rather rare in the northern part of the county, being most often seen in the lowlands toward Oneida Lake. Mr. Miller calls it an extremely rare migrant at Peterboro.

By William R. Maxon. Auk, XX, July, 1903, p. 266.

er in a Park in New York City.—A
passed the winter of 1904-05 in
I first saw him on Oct. 24, 1904,

and subsequently on twenty-three different occasions. He would apparently disappear from the park for short intervals, once for a period of two weeks, as I was on the watch for him and visited the park almost daily without seeing him. On December 19 he came to me for the first time for peanuts, and after that always came to my hand freely and without fear. On May 10, 1905, I saw a female of the same species with him, and also several other Brown Thrashers. As this was the last time I saw him, he probably accompanied the other Brown Thrashers when they left the park.—LILLIAN W. LEWIS, *New York City.*

Auk, XXII, July, 1905, p. 314-315.

Brown Thrashers I found in every sort of place visited: building their nests in the crepe myrtles and rose bushes about the house, and again down in the darkest and most dismal places in the swamp.

Auk, 4, Oct. 1887, p. 300.

Birds of Western North Carolina.
William Brewster.

87. Harporhynchus rufus. BROWN THRASHER.—Much less common than the preceding species, but still frequently met with, especially on brushy hillsides in the lower valleys. I did not detect it anywhere above 3000 feet, but was told that it is occasionally seen at Highlands (4000 feet).

Auk, 3, April, 1886, p. 175

**Summer Birds of Buncombe County,
N. Carolina. John S. Cairns.**

Harporhynchus rufus. Brown Thrasher. Summer visitor; common. Arrives here generally on the third or fourth of April, nesting in that month. Called Mocking-bird by the farmers. A great many are shot each spring by the farmers who say that they pull up their corn. Catbirds and Towhees also share the same fate.

O & O. XIV, Feb. 1889 p. 22

**Obs. on Summer Birds of Mountain
Fors. Pickens Co, S. O. L. M. Loomis.**

67. Harporhynchus rufus. BROWN THRASHER. THRASHER.—Not abundant, and mainly confined to the open valleys. A male was shot, while singing, on the edge of a clearing at about 2000 feet, which was the highest altitude at which the species was discovered.

Auk, VII, April, 1890. p. 130.

Bird Notes

..... Hales, Ridgwood, N. J.

The same friend who cared for the Olive Back, had a Brown Thrasher roost at night for three weeks late in September, and the beginning of October, in a honeysuckle on the end of his rear stoop, 36th Street, near Fifth avenue. The back yard has a flower bed all around, and a good smooth cut grass plot in the centre, which was very full of worms. The bird stayed and took a good breakfast of worms every morning early, then disappeared till evening; every day most likely he was off to the Central Park. The yards between the rows of houses here are very small, which adds to the rarity of the bird's choice, but the one he chose was in a much finer condition than any neighboring ones. I never heard of a Brown Thrasher in such a densely populated locality.

O. & O. XIII, Apr. 1888 p. 54-57.

Charleston, S. C.

Harporhynchus rufus

1884

April 1
" 14

Present and singing. A shot to-day had his egg ready for the shell in the crevice. Abundant on James's Island in briary thickets and hedges as well as oak scrub. Shot two to-day; one had the testes of maximum size, while in the other they were no larger than No 10 shot. Evidently the latter was a migrant bound further north. It was very much paler than the other. The song of the resident birds is finer than in the North but they sing less freely.
" 28 A pair on James's Island apparently bred.

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O. & O. XIII. Apr. 1888 p. 54-57.

young. They made a great fuss
coming within a few yards of
me with expanded tails and
displaying wings, uttering a
squeaking cry and also a low
chirp.

Albinistic Plumages. R. Deane.

2. *Harporhynchus rufus*. BROWN THRUSH.—Examined a fine specimen, dull white, with darker shading at the extremities. Shot at Norwood, Mass., April 9, 1879.

Bull. N. O. C. 5, Jan., 1880, p. 26

*Birds taken at Mandeville, Pa., winter of 1887-8
by C. S. Galbraith, Hoboken, N. J.*

His collection contained also a Brown Thrush with a malformed bill, in which the bill is slender, lengthened, and curved to the right, with the upper mandible twisted partially beneath the lower, which is considerably longer than the upper.

J. A. Allen, New York City

Auk, V, July, 1888, p. 325.

Descriptions of First Plumage of Certain North Am. Bbs. Wm. Brewster.

6. *Harporhynchus rufus*.

First plumage. Generally similar to adult, but with the spots on the under parts much thicker, more diffuse, and dull black instead of reddish-brown. The pileum is slightly obscured by a blackish wash; the rump rich golden-brown, and the spotting on the wing-coverts fawn-color. From specimens in my collection obtained at Cambridge, July 13, 1874.

Fall specimens differ from full-plumaged spring birds in having the upper parts of a darker, richer red, with a much stronger rufous wash on the under parts.

Bull. N. O. C. 3, Jan., 1878, p. 18.

Song of the Brown Thrasher. A Legend.

BY ARTHUR H. HOWELL.

The Brown Thrasher is one of our common summer residents. Their song, which is novel as well as pleasing, is frequently heard, the singer usually occupying the topmost branch of some small tree or hedge on the edge of a field. They prefer dry, upland ground, and I have met them most frequently along old deserted roads, where they delight to wallow in the sand, after the manner of the domestic fowl.

They build their nests in small bushes or on the ground, usually in a hedge, and the sharp, metallic "chip" which they utter when it is disturbed, while flying about the head of the intruder, is positive identity of the species. Once heard, it can never be mistaken.

I would not attempt to improve upon Mr. Oliver Davie's description of their song, as given in the January (1888), *OöLOGIST*, I will simply give an old legend concerning it which is current around my birthplace on Long Island, though I have never seen the story in print.

There were three persons concerned; a Mr. Raynor, a tavern-keeper; Terrill, an old toper; and Zopher, his friend and companion in revelry. As the story runs, the friends, one night, partook freely of the contents of the cup, and by ten o'clock the next forenoon, Mr. Terrill had not sufficiently recovered from its effects to be very clear in his reasoning. It was a warm

June evening, and as he wandered aimlessly along an old road, he heard a Thrush singing, and to his somewhat clouded imagination, it seemed to say, "Terrill, Terrill, Terrill, Terrill," "Hot to-day, hot to-day." "Where's Zopher? where's Zopher?" "Gone to Raynor's? gone to Raynor's?"

Upon hearing this, he became angry at the Thrush and accused him of telling tales, but all to no purpose, for the innocent bird kept right on with his song. The culprit probably told his friends at the tavern about it, and the story has now passed down through several generations, and for myself, I never heard a more apt illustration of this unique song. Every time I hear one of these Thrushes singing, the story comes back to me, and now, while I am writing this, the above sentences, if rapidly uttered, bring the song vividly to my mind, and I long for the time to come when I can hear it again in some quiet, sunny nook of the old farm.

O. & O. XIII. July, 1888 p. 105

The Singing of Birds. E. P. Bicknell.

Harporhynchus rufus. BROWN THRUSH.

The singing-season of this species, beginning with its arrival in April, scarcely lasts through the first week of July, though isolated dates of the singing of single birds extend almost to the end of the month. In my records I find no series of reasonably uninterrupted dates continuing later than the first third of July, but in different years single birds in full song have been heard from the 18th to the 26th of that month. Thus in one year a perfect song on July 18 was the first heard since the 5th, and in another year songs on the 6th and 10th were the last heard except one on the 20th. This mis-timed singing must result either from abnormal variation in the singing-time or mere individual caprice.

The species appears not to possess a second song-period; but on September 8, 1881, I heard a few song-notes uttered by one of several birds which were regaling themselves on the fruit of a large gum tree (*Nyssa*).

Auk, I, April, 1884. p. 132.

Notes.

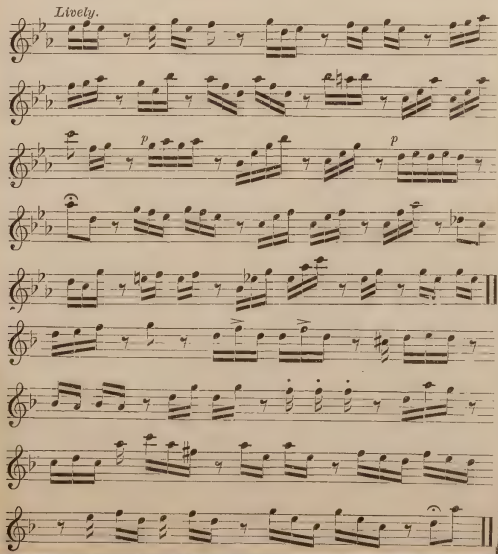
Belmont, Mass.
June 18, 1883

Several pairs of Brown Thrushes which were disturbed by my approaching their newly-fledged but flying young uttered a soft low phinner and occasionally a sound like the sharp smacking of lips. I have heard both notes before but I think they are used chiefly at this season and as calls betokening anxiety or remonstrance.

Bird Songs: Simon Peace Cheney.

BROWN THRUSH; BROWN THRASHER.

Despite a lack of quality in tone, the Thrasher is one of the favorites; his fame is assured. In exuberance and peculiarity of performance he is unsurpassed, unless it be by the Catbird. While prone to the conversational style, he is capable of splendid inspiration. On a fine morning in June, when he rises to the branch of a wayside tree, or to the top of a bush at the edge of the pasture, the first eccentric accent compels us to admit that the spirit of song has fast hold on him. As the fervor increases, his long and elegant tail droops, his whole plumage is loosened and trembling, his head is raised, and his bill is wide open; there is no mistake, it is the power of the god. No pen can report him now; we must wait till the frenzy passes. Then we may catch such fragments as these:



476, VII. 1883, 32-33.

Mass. (Concord)

Harporhynchus rufus ✓

1886.

Behaviour of nesting birds.

May 26

Nest with four slightly incubated eggs in barberry bush edge of bird room. ♀ sitting allowed me to touch her tail, then fled off and hopped about in the thicket within a few yards of me uttering a noise very like that of the Cat Bird but hoarser, a low phew, and a noise exactly like a loud kiss. The ♂ soon appeared and showed equal solicitude.

Harporhynchus rufus

Nest on ground.

Quincy, Mass.

June 1, 1883

I found a Thrasher's nest to-day on the ground (it is only the second that I have ever seen so placed) among some oak sprouts in a pasture. The nest was sunk in the earth so that its rim was level with the surrounding surface. It contained three newly hatched young and an addled egg.

Notes—Eggs of Thrushes & Thrashers,
H. G. Parker.

Brown Thrasher (*Harporhynchus rufus*). Sets of five eggs are taken as often as sets of four in this locality. They are of a greenish white or soiled white, more or less covered with reddish brown dots. They show great variations—a dark green ground with reddish spots being the most beautiful and at the same time the rarest phase. Another variety has a lighter ground of green with spots. One set might be called albinos, the spotting being quite obscure, revealing an egg almost white. Another set presents a roseate appearance, owing to its being covered with bright red spotting all over the eggs and glistening in the light. Others are artistically ringed about the greater extremity, and thus might be detailed an endless variety, both in size, shape and color. They present nearly every conceivable phase and yet to my eye do not possess the characters shown in a series of the Mexican bird (*Harporhynchus rufus longirostris*), though it would be difficult to explain the difference on paper. The average measurement of thirty-six eggs is 1.03 x .80.

O. & O. XII, May, 1887 p. 71

*Nests in which Cowbirds' eggs
have been found. C. C. Pling.*

17. *Harporhynchus rufus*. Brown Thrasher. April 30, I found a nest with three of the owner's eggs and one egg of the Cowbird. This I believe is an unusual instance, both the early date of finding and the bird in whose nest it was laid.

O. & O. XIV, Sept, 1889 p 134

The Brown Thrush laying in the Nest of the Wood Thrush. — As the present season has proved to be prolific in birds laying large sets of eggs, I was induced to look into a nest of a Wood Thrush, from which the female was with difficulty driven off, when, in addition to her own clutch of four eggs I was very much surprised to see two typical eggs of the Brown Thrush, which, I believe, is the first record of the kind. The nest was placed in a maple, about three feet from the ground, in a quite thick ravine very seldom frequented; so this occurrence cannot be placed to the pranks of some boy. Again, the Brown Thrush is not common in this vicinity, and its nest is quite a rarity, so that any boy of 'birds-eggs-collecting proclivities' would have been more apt to keep the eggs than to place them in another nest, which might not have been the case had the species been a Robin, Catbird, or some common bird. Near the spot where this nest was found a Brown Thrush was heard singing, but all efforts to find its nest were fruitless. The eggs of the Wood Thrush proved to have been incubated about seven days; those of the Brown Thrush not over two or three days. This unique set was taken June 5, 1886, and is now in the collection of the American Museum of Natural History, New York.—H. B. BAILEY, *South Orange, N. J.*

Aug, 4, Jan., 1887. p. 78.

*Capacity of Eggs
Nathan Horne, Turquoise, N. C.
(the measurements)*

Brown Thrush, the same number, 292 cubic inches. Variations, less than four per cent.

O. & O. XI. July. 1886. p. 103.

Two Days Eggging in June. Ames, Iowa
Carl Fritz-Henning, June 14.

Set IV. Brown Thrasher; nest was made of twigs, dried leaves, strips of bark and fine roots, lined with hair. Three eggs in set, thickly sprinkled over the entire surface with reddish brown specks.

O. & O. Vol. 18, Sept. 1893 p. 121

Two Days Eggging in June. Ames, Iowa
Carl Fritz-Henning, June 16.

After breakfast we started out. Our first find was four pretty eggs of the Brown Thrasher; nest was placed three feet from ground in willow.

O. & O. Vol. 18, Sept. 1893 p. 123

Notes from Central Iowa.

BROWN THRUSH, (*Harporhynchus rufus*). Found nest with three eggs, one of which was less than one-third the usual size.

C. A. Keyes, Des Moines, Iowa.

O. & O. IX, Mar. 1884. p. 84

Curious Set of Eggs.
E. S. Redf.

Set III. Four eggs of the Brown Thrasher, (*Harporhynchus rufus*). Three of these have a delicate bluish ground color, somewhat resembling the ground color of the Curved-billed Thrasher, (*Harporhynchus curvirostris*) with the markings all around the larger end forming a wreath, the remaining parts of the eggs being without marks shows of the bluish tint more decidedly than in the eggs of the Curved-billed. The fourth egg is what might be called a typical specimen of the species.

O. & O. XIII, Oct. 1888 p. 152

Curious Set of Eggs.
E. S. Redf.

Set IV. Two eggs of the Brown Thrasher, (*Harporhynchus rufus*). These have a heavy dark green ground color with the usual fine brown pin specks evenly distributed over the eggs. There are no eggs I have ever seen that I can compare them with, it being a peculiar shade. The pair of birds that built the nest these eggs were taken from, were carefully watched by a friend of mine, from the time the nest was started in an old brush pile that lay in the orchard, only a short distance from the house. After the first egg was deposited, seeing the peculiar color and being anxious to secure the whole set, he kept a close watch over the birds and nest to see that no stray "tabby" or anything else molested them. On the following day there was another egg deposited, but the next three days passed by without any more eggs being added, although the birds remained around and often visited the nest. As three days had passed without adding any more to the set, he secured the two eggs, being afraid, as he told me, that if he did not take them something might destroy them.

It has always been a debatable question between us whether the female was not ready to complete her complement, or after laying the two eggs and they being so entirely different from what she or any of her sister birds of that species had probably ever deposited, if she did not think nature was playing a joke on her and becoming disgusted, after holding a consultation with her partner, they decided to desert this nest, build another and try again. They are certainly a curious pair of eggs, and could not be mistaken for any other species, for leaving out the ground color, they resemble a typical egg of the Brown Thrasher, but are a trifle smaller than the average.

O. & O. XIII, Oct. 1888 p. 152

On the Vernacular Name of the Genus *Harporhynchus*.

THAT well-known genus of American birds, of which *Harporhynchus rufus* is the type, is almost universally called in English, by every ornithologist, or indeed by every one who knows the species in the United States, a *Thrasher*. In New England, and to the southward and westward, it is known as the Brown Thrasher. We find it printed Thrasher in the A. O. U. Check-List, without any synonymic term or terms, as is also the case in such an authoritative work as Coues's "Key to North American Birds." Now it is of interest to know that our British ornithological friends call these birds Threshers, spelled with an e in the first syllable, instead of an a. Recently Professor Alfred Newton submitted me the proof of a contribution of mine to his extensive work on Ornithology, now passing through the press, wherein this word occurred,—spelled Thrasher in my text, but Thresher in a supplementary note of his own. Upon his attention being called to it, I received from him the following in his reply: "I have not the least wish to interfere with your use of Thrashers,—there is some authority for it among English writers,—but I believe Thresher to be more correct (A. S., perscan or pirsan; Mid. Engl., preschen; Chaucer, threshen; Scal., preskja; Old Dutch, derschen; Germ., dreschen; Gothic, thrisken) and prefer that form for my own use—though, of course, giving it the sound of short ä, as in many other words, e.g., Derby. Thrash would seem to indicate a pronunciation like Thräsh (almost thrash)—which is local and vulgar. A. N." This communication is dated Magdalene College, Cambridge, England, Nov. 12, 1892. According to this it would seem that our old, time-honored name of Thrasher, strictly speaking, should give way to the more correct appellation of Thresher.

R. W. SHUFELDT.

Takoma, D. C., Nov. 29.

Business XX No 514 Dec. 9, 1892.
p. 303.

Common Names of American Birds—Ingersoll.

The *Harporhynchus rufus* is a bird of many names suggested by more than one striking point in its character. Its strong color and mimicking voice gives us *Fox-coloured Thrush* (Bartram and others); *Ferruginous Thrush* (Wilson) or *Ferruginous Mockingbird* (Audubon); *Rufous-tailed Thrush*, *Grive rouge* (Canada), *Sandy Mockingbird* (Dist. of Col.), *Brown* or *Red Thrush*, *Red Mavis* (recalling an English songbird), and *Brown Thrasher*.

The last of these (*Thrasher*) is perhaps the most often heard of all its names in the Northern and Middle States. The word is undoubtedly another derivative from the root of *thrush* just as the Swedish *trast* is; or you may say that it came from the root of the verb to *thresh* (in Anglo-Saxon *therscan*), the original meaning of which was to make a rattling noise,—one of the most prominent of the utterances of this garrulous bird.

Its imitative powers have given it several names, such as two or three quoted above; *American Mockingbird* (Wisconsin); *French Mockingbird* (Southern States—distinguishing from *M. polyglottus*); *Carolina Mockingbird*, and so on. In the name *Corn-planter* (New Jersey and Massachusetts) we have a recognition of the time of its appearance in the spring, when the maize-seed is being put into the ground. "While you are planting your seed," says Thoreau, "he cries—'Drop it, drop it—cover it up, cover it up—pull it up, pull it up, pull it up.'"

Bull. N. O. C. 8, April. 1899, p. 76.

1796: Bird Notes from Missouri. By Jasper B. Lines—Mention of *Mimus polyglottus*, *Harporhynchus rufus* and *Galus caplis carolinensis*. Aug. 22, p. 83.

File under *Harporhynchus rufus*.

892. The Brown Thrush. (*Harporhynchus Rufus*.) By Wilmot. *Ibid.*, pp. 323, 324.—On its habits. For. & Stream, XXII

1658. Flutterbudget. By Olive Thorne Miller. *Ibid.*, No. 355, May, 1887, pp. 678-682.—*Harporhynchus rufus* in captivity. Atlantic Mon.

Local Names of N. Carolina Birds.
O. S. Brimley.

BROWN THRASHER, sometimes called Swamp Sparrow or Swamp Robin, names applied to any brown bird with a speckled breast.

O. & O. XIV, July, 1889 p. 109

Toxostoma vs. *Harporhynchus*.—*Toxostoma* was first used by Rafinesque (Amer. Monthly Mag., IV, p. 107) in 1818, for a genus of shells. The name occurs in a mere list of shells as "TOXOSTOMA, N. G. 1 species," and is a pure *nomen nudum*. It remained in this state until Nov., 1831 (Enumeration and Account of Some Remarkable Natural Objects in the Cabinet of Professor Rafinesque in Philadelphia, p. 2), when the species was described. Shortly before this, however (Isis, May, 1831, 528), Wagler used the term for a genus of birds (type: *Toxostoma vetula* Wagler, = *Orpheus curvirostris* Swainson), and there seems to be no valid reason why *Toxostoma* should not replace *Harporhynchus*, the latter given in 1847 by Cabanis, on the supposition that *Toxostoma* was preoccupied. Our Thrashers should stand as follows: *Toxostoma rufa* (Linn.), *Toxostoma longirostris sennetti* (Ridgw.), *Toxostoma curvirostris* (Swains.), *Toxostoma curvirostris palmeri* (Coues), *Toxostoma bendirei* (Coues), *Toxostoma cinerea* (Xantus), *Toxostoma cinerea mearnsi* (Anthony), *Toxostoma rediviva* (Gamb.), *Toxostoma rediviva pasadenensis* (Grinnell), *Toxostoma lecontei* Lawr., *Toxostoma lecontei arenicola* (Anthony), and *Toxostoma crissalis* Henry.—CHAS. W. RICHMOND, Washington, D. C. *Ann.*, XIX, Jan., 1902, p. 87.

*Saxicola
penanthe*

Second Addendum to List of Birds Ascertained to Occur within ten miles from Point de Monts, Province of Quebec, Canada; based chiefly upon the Notes of Napoleon A. Comeau.—Mr. Comeau has sent me skins of the following-named species, taken by him at Godbout, and not previously recorded from that locality:

157. *Saxicola oenanthe*. Shot May 18, 1884.

C. Hart Merriam, Locust Grove, N. Y.

Auk, I, July, 1884. p. 195.

Addendum to List of Birds known to Occur within Ten Miles of Point de Monts, Quebec.

A second specimen of the Wheatear (*Saxicola oenanthe*) was taken at Godbout, September 19, 1884, and was exhibited by Mr. Comeau at the late meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union.—C. HART MERRIAM, Locust Grove, New York. *Auk*, 2, Jan., 1885. p. 113.

Probable Breeding of the Wheatear (*Saxicola oenanthe*) on the North Shore of the Gulf of St. Lawrence.—I have before me three specimens of *Saxicola oenanthe*, all of which were shot at Godbout, on the north shore of the St. Lawrence, near the point where the river widens into the Gulf, by Mr. Napoleon A. Comeau. Two others were seen, making five individuals noted within thirteen months. Following is the complete record: May 18, 1884, one shot. Sept. 19, 1884, male shot. May 24, 1885, one seen. June 9, 1885, female shot and mate seen.

Mr. Comeau writes me that in the female shot June 9, "the eggs were pretty well developed." He adds, "I think there can be no question now about the bird breeding on this coast."

It is safe to infer that the five individuals seen were but a small portion of those actually present along the coast; hence the species can no longer be regarded as "an accidental straggler from Europe." Moreover, the finding of two birds (presumably a pair) at Godbout so late as the 9th of June, taken in connection with the statement that the female contained ova which "were pretty well developed," point strongly to the conclusion that they would have nested at no very great distance. And this conclusion is strengthened by the fact that the Wheatear is known to breed in June at Disco, Greenland,* fifteen hundred miles north of Godbout.—C. HART MERRIAM, Locust Grove, N. Y.

Auk, 2, July, 1886. p. 305

* Fabricius says of it: "Nidificat mense Junio inter lapides majores, gramine arido cum muscis et plumis raris intermixtis," etc. (Fauna Grœnlandica, 1780, p. 123); and nearly a century later (July 19, 1875), Sir George S. Nares found "several parties of young Wheatears . . . flying about the rocks near the shore" at Prœuen, nearly two hundred miles north of Disco (Narrative of a Voyage to the Polar Sea, Vol. I, 1878, p. 29).

Additional Notes on the Probable Breeding of *Saxicola oenanthe* near Godbout, Province of Quebec, Canada.—In 'The Auk' for July, 1885, Dr. C. Hart Merriam recorded several specimens of the Wheatear taken by me on the north shore of the St. Lawrence during May and June of 1884 and 1885. Since then I have secured several additional specimens which throw more light on the occurrence of the species near Godbout. I shot a young male September 19, 1885, and another specimen November 9, 1886. None were observed in 1887 or 1888. September 30, 1889, while visiting the Caribou Islands, I saw five of these birds together, but having no gun was unable to secure specimens. The next morning I saw one hopping around the house where I was staying, and upon calling the attention of my host, Mr. Chas. Jordan, to the bird he informed me that he had noticed a pair of them several times but was not certain of the date when he had first seen them—probably about the end of August. I have since heard that his son shot two or three. October 17, 1889, I shot a pair of Wheatears at Godbout, both exceedingly fat; one of these was sent to Dr. Merriam. Two days later (October 19) I saw a single bird but was unable to secure it.

Caribou Islands being only twenty miles east of Godbout it is quite possible that some if not all of the birds observed here during October were the same I noticed there. It can hardly be expected that I have seen all that have passed this point, and several may have occurred along the north shore both east and west without being recorded, but I think *Saxicola oenanthe* has been observed here often enough, and at dates close enough to its breeding season, to entitle it to a place in the list of birds breeding in this vicinity.—NAP. A. COMEAU, Godbout, Quebec.

Auk, VII, July, 1890, p. 294.

Birds of N.E. coast of Labrador
by Henry B. Bigelow.

85. *Saxicola oenanthe*. WHEATEAR.—Nests near Nachvak, for the Hudson Bay Company factor there had nests which he had taken. I did not observe the bird.

Auk, XIX, Jan., 1902, p. 31.

CAPTURE OF THE STONECHAT NEAR EASTPORT, MAINE.—I have had sent me a Stonechat (*Saxicola ananthe*) shot by Mr. George Moses on Indian Island, near Eastport, August 25, 1879.—GEORGE A. BOARDMAN, *Milton, N. B.* Bull. N. O. C. 5, April, 1880, p. 115.

The Wheatear Not a Bird of Maine.—In a recent article, Dr. Stejneger (cf. Stejneger, Proc. U. S. Nat. Mus., Vol. XXIII, p. 473) cites the Wheatear (*Saxicola ananthe*) as a bird recorded from Maine. Now as I have shown (cf. Knight, List of Birds of Maine, p. 141) there are no valid grounds for admitting this species to the avifauna of the State.

Careless and ignorant writers of the past have recorded the species in question from Maine, owing to their failure to carefully read the title of Mr. Boardman's list, upon the authority of which they made their supposed records, and many other species as well as this one were cited upon the same grounds and their own ignorance of the exact boundary line between Maine and New Brunswick. Almost invariably Grand Menan birds have been given a place in New England bird lists, which shows the ignorance of geography exhibited by the authors.

I have in my possession a letter from Mr. Boardman in which he states that he has in his possession two specimens of the Wheatear, one taken at *Grand Menan, New Brunswick*, and the other taken on *Indian Island, New Brunswick*. This letter was written in 1896, and gives corrections of many other records made by geographical ignoramuses. Through Mr. Boardman's aid all these erroneous Maine records were straightened out and corrected and may be found in the 'List of the Birds of Maine.'—ORA W. KNIGHT, *Bangor, Me.*

Auk, XVIII, July, 1901, pp. 275-276

Greenland Wheatear Seen in Massachusetts.—On Sept. 17, 1910, I saw a Wheatear at Pigeon Cove, Mass., at the extreme point of Cape Ann,

and although I did not secure the bird, I had a good opportunity to observe it for sometime, making careful note of the size and coloring of the bird and the characteristic marking of the white upper tail-coverts and white tail feathers, broadly tipped with black.

I flushed the bird four or five times and as it made low flights from me, it spread its tail, which looked short, and the large white spot, on the upper tail-coverts and tail, with broad blackish band at the end of the tail, was particularly conspicuous.

The bird was alone and on some large loose rocks, at the top of the broad expanse of rock, which gradually extends to the ocean, and when flushed could have easily flown to the nearby shrubbery and trees, but in each case flew to another part of the loose rocks. At one time, when I thought the bird had gone, I was surprised to have it dart down from above in an almost perpendicular flight and light on one of the rocks in front of me.

For about a week previous to Sept. 17, there had been a very strong north wind.

The subspecies was necessarily undetermined but undoubtedly was the Greenland Wheatear (*Saxicola ananthe leucorhoa*).

The above note is offered as of interest, if not conclusive proof of the occurrence of the bird in Massachusetts.—CHAS. R. LAMB, *Cambridge, Mass.*

Auk. XXIX. Apr. 1912. p. 258-51

Interesting Birds in Am. Mus. Nat.

Saxicola oenanthe

A third specimen, of much local interest, is an example (No. 1236, ♀ ad.) of a Wheatear (*Saxicola oenanthe*), from the collection of Mr. D. G. Elliot, taken on Long Island, N. Y., but the date of capture is not given. It appears not to have been previously recorded.—J. A. ALLEN, *Am. Mus. Nat. Hist.*, New York City.

Ann, 3, Oct., 1888. p. 490

Dutcher, Rare Long Island Birds.

Saxicola oenanthe. WHEATEAR.—The Historical Society possesses but one specimen of this boreal bird. It is one of the latest additions to the collection, having been shot at Jamaica, Queens Co., in 1885 by Mr. John Pringle, a nurseryman of Brooklyn, and taken to Mr. Akhurst who mounted it. Mr Pringle stated that he saw two of these birds in company, but secured only the one presented to the Historical Society.

Ann X, July, 1893 p 277.

Sialia sialis.

189

April 11th Ed. 30th 1889. 13th 1890. 1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th 9th 10th 11th 12th 13th 14th 15th 16th 17th 18th 19th 20th 21st 22nd 23rd 24th 25th 26th 27th 28th 29th 30th 1891

May 5th 6th 7th 8th 9th 10th 11th 12th 13th 14th 15th 16th 17th 18th 19th 20th 21st 22nd 23rd 24th 25th 26th 27th 28th 29th 30th 1890

June 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th 9th 10th 11th 12th 13th 14th 15th 16th 17th 18th 19th 20th 21st 22nd 23rd 24th 25th 26th 27th 28th 29th 30th 1890

Concord, 1892 - See list in Journal (no 1)

Concord, 1892 - See list in Journal (no 1)

July

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May

Concord, 1892 - See list in Journal (no 1)

June

July 26th 1890

Concord, 1892 - See list in Journal (no 1)

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Concord, 1892 - See list in Journal (no 1)

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Concord, 1892 - See list in Journal (no 1)

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Sialia sialis

1893.

January

Muddy

February

12th N. Dutton -

March

Muddy 13th (N. Dutton) - 14th 4th 3rd 8th 9th 10th 11th 12th 13th 14th 15th 16th 17th 18th 19th 20th 21st 22nd 23rd 24th 25th 26th 27th 28th 29th 30th 31st Concord

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August

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September

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October

25th 26th 27th 28th 29th 30th 31st Concord

November

December

Sialia sialis

1894.

January

February

March

6th 7th 8th 9th 10th 11th 12th 13th 14th 15th 16th 17th 18th 19th 20th 21st 22nd 23rd 24th 25th 26th 27th 28th 29th 30th 31st Concord

April

May

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August

September

October

1st 2nd 3rd 4th 5th 6th 7th 8th 9th 10th 11th 12th 13th 14th 15th 16th 17th 18th 19th 20th 21st 22nd 23rd 24th 25th 26th 27th 28th 29th 30th 31st Concord

Sialia sialis

K. = Hayes' Place
B.H. = Bush's Hill

January

W20
3 Jany 1891.

February

Transylvania 25th (C. Brown) 1897 Weston fruit of the Concord 24th (A. H. Band) 1898 28th (A. H. Band) 1898

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Concord
23rd 1891.

August

September

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October

3rd 1891 8th 1891 10th 1891 12th 1891 13th 1891 14th 1891 15th 1891 16th 1891 17th 1891 18th 1891 19th 1891 21st 1891 22nd 1891 23rd 1891 24th 1891 26th 1891

December

Sialia sialis

1891 Mass.

March 27 New Cambridge. - Bluebirds have been rather numerous during the past three or four weeks, in fact quite up to their usual standard in this respect. The nearest point to my place where I have seen or heard them is behind Mt. Auburn on or near the Winchester place where two were warbling this morning. ~~But~~ I have seen several much nearer, however, - in the fields just beyond the Cambridge Reservoir. But to find them really common one must go quite beyond the outskirts of the Sparrows Belt - to the region west of the long ridge in Belmont. On the 25th I saw and heard them constantly - perhaps as many as fifteen or twenty during the day - all the way from the ridge just mentioned to the Bryant farm in Lexington. Evidently the Sparrows have crowded them back into the farming country where they seem to be fully as numerous as they were twenty years ago. Of course a considerable proportion of the birds one sees during this month are migrants, for the Bluebird is not, and none has been within my recollection, at all numerously represented in the breeding season in any part of Massachusetts.

" 28 Late yesterday afternoon I saw three Bluebirds flying over the fields beyond the Cambridge Reservoir, warbling, and this morning a male was flitting among the apple trees directly opposite the Cambridge Hospital on Mt. Auburn St.

" 30 Lexington. - Faxon reports Bluebirds in unusual numbers both yesterday and to-day. During a walk this morning he was near out of hearing of one or more and gave up trying to count them. He thinks that these two days represent the height of the migration.

Sialia sialis

1891 Mass.

May 4 Cambridge. - One ♂ near Hills' Crossing, another at the cross-roads Feeding ♀
on the birch just beyond Fresh Pond. The latter bearing at nest &
some small morsel of food in its bill flew to the dead warbling in
branch of an apple tree and alighting on the under side tender
him, then, sat down, for about half-a-minute uttering under
an exquisitely tender, whispered warble so low that I could under
scarcely catch it: at a distance of 20 yds. he doubtless felt
the tilting ♀ (although I did not actually see this), or
on inspecting the branch I found, as "expected," a
hole on the under side with a few shavings protruding.
Bluebirds are nearly silent now, except early in the
morning, and very inconspicuous.

1892

Dec.

Connecticut - Mr. Antuan Bangs tells me that Bluebirds Roosting in
winter regularly at where he goes each year an old nest
to shoot game birds. A few days since while at this of Windsor
place he saw two Bluebirds come at evening to an
old Robin's nest in a tree near his club house and
hop into this nest where they cuddled down side by
side, just showing their heads over the rim, and spent
the night. The next evening they came again at the
same time & did precisely the same thing. He believes
that they intend keeping this up all winter.

1893

Jan 28 Dixbury - A friend of Mr. Hoffmann's reports a flock of Bluebirds Wintering
at above date & place. The month has been exceedingly cold the
mercury temperature at 7 a.m. having been only 12.48°.

Massachusetts.

Sialia sialis

1891.

Oct. 22. Earlisle. Bluebirds were very numerous in flocks. While I was dressing this morning I heard one singing with as much fervor as in spring.

1892.

April 13. Concord. A pair of Bluebirds have chosen a very small hole (that of a Downy Woodpecker) in a maple by the landing for their nest and on the morning of the 9th the ♀ was taking in big mouthfuls of dry grass. Perhaps my carpenter, who has been working directly under the tree have interrupted further nest building but the birds certainly have not deserted as yet.

June 13. On reaching the Buttricks' I at once heard a Bluebird warbling with a peculiar fervor and frequency. It kept it up almost unceasingly until nearly dark and the people at the hotel told me that it had been singing thus during the entire day.

Sialia sialis.

1893

March 14

(No. 2)

Cambridge
Mass.

Although I failed to hear Bluebirds during my drive they nevertheless arrived in force this morning. Denton heard three or four at Melrose this morning and Faxon and Hoffmann saw & heard no less than six at Arlington. Faxon tells me that at least two and he thinks three of his birds were females accompanied by their mates. His first experience is that the first Bluebirds to arrive here usually paired. This is the exact reverse of what I have observed.

Arrival of
Bluebirds
in force.

Females
among the
first arrivals.

Concord, Mass.
April, 24, 1893.

I was then in front of Holden's house a pair of Bluebirds were copulating. I saw only one male & one female accompanied by a female. He is obviously a good mate, & I heard by the male uttering of the "chuck" note.

Bluebirds

Bluebirds. *Sialia sialis.*

Waverly, Mass.

Torrey's Bluebirds have remained into January.

Walter Faxon (letter January 12, 1891).

Sialia sialis

1894

Mass.

April

Belmont. Twice during this month Faxon heard and saw a female Bluebird sing. On both occasions she was accompanied by the male who was also singing. The song of the female was very much like that of the male but a trifle less vigorous, loud. It got very near his birds and made sure of their by although in due not shoot either of them. He has never before heard a female Bluebird sing nor here. The birds heard on these two occasions were in different places and doubtless were different individuals.

The female
singing

1895

February

January and February were exceptionally severe months throughout our Middle and Southern States. On February 8th a heavy snow storm prevailed along the entire Atlantic seaboard from New York to the Carolinas. Less than a foot of snow fell but a furious wind drifted it so badly that the highways were blocked & even the Pennsylvania Railroad closed running trains for 24 hours or more. This storm was followed by a week or more of intensely cold weather with high winds. When I reached Washington D.C. Feb. 12th Mr. Ridgway told us that he found that practically all the Bluebirds in that region had perished. Before the storm they had been abundant over the city. Immediately after it numbers were found lying dead on the snow in the fields & by the roadsides. Up to the turn (February 17th) when I started for home only one live Bluebird had been reported from the region about Washington. (*Of Nat. Sci. News Vol 1 no 10 p. 39*)

Practically
the whole of
Eastern
one, Atlantic
States Bluebirds
perish in
the winter

April 2

Cambridge, Belmont, Arlington & Concord. Although I have been in these haunts almost daily for the past three weeks I have not yet seen or heard a single Bluebird. Faxon, however, reports a pair at Norwichey on March 23 & a single bird on the 31st. Faxon saw 24 on Muddy Hills on March 23rd but none after a rain. This shows that one has been as yet seen or heard at Concord so far as I can learn. There is little doubt that they have nearly all perished.

Sialia harris

1895 Mass.

Pockepsq. "April 2nd almost every field or orchard had one or more Bluebirds. Shortly after they all but disappeared & that since May 1 I have seen only two and found no nests at all" (J. H. Bowles letter June 4, 1895)

Wellesley. June 12th. Mr. S. W. Denton told me that he had not heard of a single pair of Bluebirds breeding in Wellesley this year. The Fitzgerald Brothers who have been hunting much for nests have seen none since the migration passed. Another friend of D's who lives in E. Needham says that none have bred in that town to his knowledge.

Pockepsq.

April 2

"Regarding the Bluebirds ... I saw on April 2 mice in a distance of a mile - & a-half, I heard others & & was told that many others were seen by persons that I asked on that date. During the season I have seen at least thirty but many may have been seen twice. At present I know of but two pairs in this vicinity" (J. H. Bowles letter June 20, 1895)

June 16 Mareham. - "I have not seen a single Bluebird [here this season], You know how many usually breed in these woods using the dead stumps that are left by the forest fires. It is too bad" (O. Bangs letter June 16, 1895)

Sept 29

Pockepsq. "Saw a pair of Bluebirds Sept. 29. Have seen three others during the autumn which I must have expected to note." (J. H. Bowles letter Oct. 10, 1895)

Canada

Montreal. - "I have only seen one (here Sept. 25) this year." (Ernest D. Wright, letter Nov. 5, 1895)

State's birds

1896. Connecticut

Feb. 8 Portland. - "Sage xxx saw seven Bluebirds many of them singing" Wilmington
(Purdie post card Feb. 13. 1896)

Mass.

Poukefogg. - "Bluebirds were quite as numerous this Spring as usual. I counted eighteen different birds in an afternoon's ride. But, as last year, they are almost all gone now. In Canton, Milton, Stoughton, and Sharon I know of but four pairs in all nor have I heard of any others". (J. W. Bowles, letter June 1, 1896)

1898

Mar. 15 Concord. Found Bluebirds close about the [Keyes'] house. [Journal]
I heard two warbling [on a trip to Ball's Hill] and saw a pair of them near Flint's bridge [Journal].

Mar. 16. Concord. Singing at sunrise near the [Keyes'] house. [Journal].
Mass., Berkshire Co.

July 2-4. Uxbridge. (in or near). Two. [Journal].

1901

Mar. 3 Dover. One seen by Mr. W. A. Francis. Rec. N. O. C. for
Mar. 5, 1901

1905 Massachusetts

June 12 Cambridge - This morning shortly after eight o'clock I went over to Mr. Hoyer's and saw a Bluebird carry food into a small white bird box fastened to the side of the summer house behind the main house. Mr. Hoyer's daughter, Penelope, made the house and had it put up 4 or 5 years ago. This is the first time that Bluebirds have taken possession. Mrs. Deane saw one of the old birds today on the clothes horse behind our house - I shall learn more of
Corner Highland & Sparks Sts. P. Deane

Sialia sialis.

Concord, Mass.

1897. One pair established and no doubt nesting in Benson's or-
April. chard, another among the willow stubs along the river ~~bottom~~
between the Holt and Hunt's Pond. I have also heard a male
singing rather frequently in the orchard near the W. Bedford
station. About Concord proper I have seen rather fewer Blue-
birds this season than last, but I have spent little time there.
Faxon tells me that they have increased amazingly since last
year in the Belmont-Arlington region where he thinks they have
about regained their normal abundance. A similar increase is
reported by Charles Faxon for the West Roxbury region.

Sialia sialis.

Concord, Mass.

Beautiful song.

1898. I landed at Swift's shore and walked through the woods March 13. where I heard a Brown Creeper to the opening farming land beyond where Song Sparrows were singing and a Bluebird, balancing on the topmost spray of an isolated apple tree, was pouring out his very soul in tender, plaintive warbling. Again and again, dozens of times in quick succession or at intervals of a half-minute or so, his rich notes came to my delighted ears; now clear, pure and exquisitely modulated, next muffled by the rushing wind that swept the gray-brown fields. It is not often that one can have hear a Bluebird at his very best and this is the first time that I have had the privilege the present season.

Peterborough, New Hampshire.

1898. Several broods of young with their parents seen at different places in fields or pastures. A male in full song July 5 to July 17th, another warbling feebly August 9th.

Sialia sialis.

Concord, Mass.

1899. Came upon three Bluebirds in Holden's pasture, a female April.7. sitting on a rock and two males dancing and fluttering about her with wide spread tails and half-opened wings, warbling in a deliciously soft undertone, each evidently striving to out-do the other in the display of his beautiful plumage and exquisite voice but neither showing the least ill temper. It was indeed a pretty picture with its setting of bleached grass and a line of wasting snow drifts against the old stone wall that formed the background. A Flicker was shouting in an oak and six male Red-wings perched in an apple tree not far away.

::::-----::::

Oct.12
to
Oct.21.

Abundance.

Bluebirds were more numerous about Concord this autumn than they have been at any time within the past five or six years. Nor was this abundance confined to this one locality for, as already mentioned, I saw upwards of fifty birds while driving from Peterboro (N.H.) to Groton (Mass.) on the 8th and an equal number between Groton and Lexington on the 10th. Their numbers remained undiminished at Concord up to the 22nd after which I noted the species only on the 24th and 25th, getting no November records this year although I was in the field constantly during the first ten days of the latter month

On October 13th I saw four Bluebirds in company with a

Sialia sialis.

Concord, Mass.

Abundance.

1899. number of Robins and Yellow-rumps eating mountain-ash berries
Oct. 12-31. in the tree at the Keyes place. The weather at the time was
(2). clear and warm.

NOTES ON SOME OF THE RARER BIRDS OF
SOUTHERN NEW BRUNSWICK.

BY MONTAGUE CHAMBERLAIN.

1. *Sialia sialis*. BLUEBIRD.—About the middle of March, 1877, Mr. Harold Gilbert saw one at Mount Pleasant, a suburb of St. John. Some time early in June, 1879, Mr. J. W. Banks saw one at Milledgeville, with food in its mouth, apparently for its young. On April 26, 1881, Mr. Henry Gilbert shot one at Rothesay, nine miles north of St. John.

Bull. N.O.C., 7, April, 1882, p. 104

New Brunswick Notes . . . Chamberlain .

On the 24th of the same month* the occurrence of the Bluebird near St. John was confirmed, for I shot a pair at Westfield, evidently mated. I also know of numerous others having been taken or seen during the summer.

* May, '82. Bull. N.O.C. 8, Jan, 1883, p. 9.

*Birds within Ten Miles of Fort
de Monts, Can. Comeau & Merriam.*

4. *Sialia sialis*. BLUE-BIRD.—Extremely rare. During a residence of many years at Godbout Mr. Comeau has seen but one pair of these birds: they nested in a stump near his house in July, 1880.

Bull. N.O.C., 7, Oct, 1882, p. 23

*Birds of Upper St. John.
Batchelder.*

6. *Sialia sialis* (Linn.) Hald. BLUEBIRD.—At Grand Falls they were frequently seen, as many as seven or eight in the course of a day. Apparently not common at Fort Fairfield. At Houlton "very rare," one pair breeding.

Bull. N.O.C., 7, April, 1882, p. 109

Last Dates Migratory Birds observed by
E. D. Wintle, Fall 1885, Montreal, Can.

Nov. 17, Bluebird.

O. & O. XI, Mar. 1886, p. 44

*Summer Birds of Sudbury, Ont. 6.
A. H. Alberger.*

706. Bluebird. Common.

O. & O. XV, June, 1890, p. 123

*Birds of Forts, Canada,
by James H. Fleming.
Part II, Band Bird.
Auk, xxiv, Jan., 1907, p. 87.*

290. *Sialia sialis*. BLUEBIRD.—Abundant migrant and summer resident, March 3 to November 11; earliest spring record, February 26, 1906.

*Summer Birds of the Cobalt Mining Region,
Nipissing District Ontario.
by Frederick C. Hubel, Auk, xxiv, Jan. 1907, p. 52.*

75. *Sialia sialis*. BLUEBIRD.—Fairly common.

Quebec.

The Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) in Quebec.—A pair of Bluebirds, uttering their usual call notes, flew over me within a few yards at Tadousac on July 4, 1908. The species is so rare on the north shore of the lower St. Lawrence that this occurrence seems worthy of note, for I know of no other record save that of a pair found nesting by Mr. Comeau in July, 1880, at Godbout (Merriam, B. N. O. C., VII, 1882, p. 234).

The birds I saw were traveling westward and were very possibly far from their nesting ground, as no trace of them was found later in the summer, but the cool breezes of the maritime portion of eastern Canada are not to the liking of this species, which reaches its northern limit not far from the southern boundary line.

Bluebirds occur, sparingly I imagine, about the city of Quebec, although Mr. C. E. Dionne in 'Les Oiseaux de la Province de Quebec,' 1906, states that they are there "assez commun." The summer climate of the city and its environs is, however, much warmer than even fifty miles further down the river where the influence of the cold waters of the Gulf of St. Lawrence begins to be felt.

As I had spent parts of eighteen summers at Tadousac, the pair of Bluebirds was a great surprise, and I am glad they were not of a species about the identification of which there would be the slightest doubt.—J. DWIGHT, JR., *New York City*.

Aug 26, Jan-1909, p. 83.

Rare New Brunswick Birds,
P. Cox, jr.

Sialia sialis.

a decision was reached; for the three rose on the wing, and were soon lost in the gathering shades of the dark pine forest.

The gray dawn of the morrow found me, gun in hand, hastening over the strong crust field, across which even a Goliath could have strode in safety. Everywhere silence reigned, disturbed only by the hard snow crunching under my feet, and echoing from the nearest pine clad hills.

The dark green of the woods had, during night, given place to a silvery covering of frost which transformed the whole forest into a mass resembling a great white cloud, thrown against the horizon of a blue sky. From the early chimney tops, columns of pale smoke were rising into the still morning air, so tall and graceful and white as to seem like delicate marble pillars supporting the arched dome overhead. But that which claimed most of my attention, and filled me with alternate hope and fear, was, shall I see again my feathered visitors of the evening before? When I reached their feeding ground nothing was to be seen. I waited long and anxiously. Presently the sun rose large and red, and shook his brilliant rays in profusion over the snowy landscape. Soon the whole forest was aglow, flashing and sparkling as if set with a million gems, but, like some fond dream or hope of the young heart, it soon vanished, leaving nothing

be inferred from the difference of latitude; for the latter place is within the influence of the warm Bay of Fundy waters, whereas the former are upon a coast washed by colder Arctic currents. Why this species should be found here more frequently than to the south of us is an interesting problem for ornithologists. I cannot suggest an explanation. The common food supply seems neither more inviting nor abundant. Our coasts, it is true, abound more in fish, and maritime garbage would likely be more plentiful, but I am not sure that these birds show any marked predilection for this kind of diet.

On the fifth of last April, I was walking on the railroad track, in the vicinity of the town, shortly before sunset, when I came across three birds which were entire strangers to me. They were feeding at the time on the side of an embankment that, owing to its southern aspect, was already bare of snow; and as they flitted to the ground and returned to the telegraph wires, their blue backs and wings flashed brilliantly in the rays of the setting sun, causing me to think at first of the Jay; but no, these pretty strangers were but half his size. Fearing to approach too closely, lest they might take flight, I attempted to observe them for some time at a distance; but not having my field-glass, it

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By this time the sun had set. The air began to grow chilly; my interesting companions ceased feeding, and commenced chirping to one another, as if discussing, what next? Presently a decision was reached; for the three rose on the wing, and were soon lost in the gathering shades of the dark pine forest.

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That blue flash! What is it? Yes, there are the three pretty objects of my curiosity, perched on the telegraph wires where I last saw them, as quiet and easy of manner, as confiding and thoughtless of danger, and even more beautiful than on the evening before. I had killed hundreds of birds in my life: I had never felt such an absorbing interest in one before; yet on no occasion did I ever raise my gun with so much reluctance to take a life. And when at length I held in my hand a beautiful lifeless form, heard its two little friends, companions of its long journey and dreary nights, whispering to one another, methought, in mournful tones; when I saw them rise in the air, uttering a loud shrill note that sounded in my guilty ears like the curse of betrayed innocence, and fly away never to be seen by me again, my heart grew heavy, and I almost cursed that professional incredulity which drives an amateur into acts of needless cruelty. And even now as I raise my eyes from the paper, and look upon the graceful form, perched on a tiny stand, ornamented more than usual as if to make some restitution for the destruction of its life, the motionless presence recalls the events of that sunny April morning, and stirs anew the feeling of regret and pain.

Birds of Dead River Region, Me. F. H. C. 12.

6. *Sialia sialis*, (Bluebird). In the southern portion of both counties a few birds of this species were seen around the houses, and occupying boxes erected for their use.

O. & O. XI, Aug. 1886. p. 114

Bluebird. Saw one or two pairs at Boothbay. Thomas H. Montgomery, Jr.

766. Bluebird. Saw one or two pairs at Boothbay. Thomas H. Montgomery, Jr.

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18.
Birds Obs. at Bridgewater, N.H.
July 12-Sept. 4, 1883. F.H. Allen

Sialia sialis.—Common.

Auk, VI. Jan., 1889. p. 77

19.
Birds Obs. at Moultonboro, N.H.
July 21-Aug. 11, 1883. F.H. Allen

Sialia sialis.—Common.

Auk, VI. Jan., 1889. p. 79

15.
Sialia sialis.—Rather scarce. Shelburne, N.H. Aug. 8-29-1885. R. D.
Rye Beach, N.H. July 23-24-1885.
✓ 4. *Sialia sialis*.—Common. ✓
Wolfeboro, N.H. June. 17-1887.
2. *Sialia sialis*.—~~one~~
Wolfeboro, N.H. June. 18-1889.
1 *Sialia* buried with birds 17 young.

16.
Bds. Obs. at Franconia and Bethlehem
N.H. July-August, 1874. J.A. Allen

50. *Sialia sialis*. Occasionally seen; not common.*

Auk, V. April, 1888. p. 155

16.
Birds Obsvd. near Holderness, N.H.
June 4-12, '85, and 4-11, '86. W. Faxon

65. *Sialia sialis*. BLUEBIRD.—Common.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p. 151

17.
Bds. Obs. in Franconia, N.H. June 11-21
'86, and June 4-Aug. 1, '87. W. Faxon

87. *Sialia sialis*. BLUEBIRD.—Not common.

Auk, V. April, 1888. p. 153

1894.

June 15th

Bluebirds seemed to avoid the immediate vicinity of Merrill's but they were common enough a little down the valley in the orchards and about the houses which are scattered all the way along the road to Warren village. He also saw two *Scolecophagus* (which were in full song) *gambeli* at an elevation of about 3500 ft on Mt. Mosierville sitting on the tops of dead trees ~~and~~ singing. They were above the point ~~where~~ to which the heavy forest extends & the woods about them were thinned & comprising open with a few tall stubs rising above the living canopy.

Bluebird, Mar. 26

First Arrivals, C. O. Tracy, Taftsville, Vt.

O. & O. VIII, Sept. 1883, p. 71

*Notes from Taftsville, Vt.
by C. O. Tracy.*

Large numbers of Bluebirds, (Sialia sialis), passed
from Oct. 8th to 16th.

O. & O. X, Jan. 1885, p. 18

86. Sialia sialis. BLUEBIRD. — Rather uncommon; observed at the
base of the mountain and at Moscow.

1887

Oct. 4²⁰ - 5²⁰

1888

March 22⁶ - 24¹²April 5¹² - 9⁴ - 12² April 24² - 25¹²Oct. 26⁵*Sialia sialis*

* singing

Mass. (Winchendon)

25.

1887

June 25² - 26¹ 1887" 18¹ 1888*Sialia sialis*

Mass. (near Cambridge).

25

1887
March 21²⁰ - 22²April 6¹ - 15⁴*Sialia sialis*

Mass. (South Hanover)

Sialia sialis 27.

1886

Wintering

Jan.

"From a reliable man I learn of several Blue birds seen at So. Hanover since the last heavy snow-storm". (R. L. Newcomb, post. card of Jan. 18-1886)

Sialia sialis

Mass. - near Cambridge.

22.

1886

Feb

15⁴

Mch

28⁴⁰, 29³⁰

April

7¹², 12¹⁰ - 19⁴ - 23⁴ - 27⁴

1887

Oct. 4²⁰ - 5²⁰

1888

March 22⁶ - 24⁹Apr. 5¹⁰ - 9¹⁰ - 11² April. 24² - 25¹²Oct. 26⁵

* Singing

Sialia sialis

Mass. (Wichendon)

25.

1887

June 25² - 26⁴ 1887" 18¹ - 88*Sialia sialis*

1887

March-April. In the country about Cambridge Bluebirds have been as numerous this spring as I ever knew them to be. They have been also seen frequently in the gardens in Cambridge where I have not observed one for several years past. The obvious reason is that about 3/4 of the English Sparrows died last winter.

Mass. (South Hanover)

Sialia sialis 27.

1886

Wintering

Jan.

"From a reliable man I learn of several Blue birds seen at So. Hanover since the last heavy snow storm". (R. L. Newcomb, post card of Jan. 18-1886)

Sialia sialis

Mass. - near Cambridge.

23.

1886

Feb 18⁴March 28⁴⁰ - 29²⁰April 7¹² - 12⁴⁰ - 19⁴ - 23² - 27⁴

Mass (Middlesex Co.)

Sialia sialis 32

1887. March 21. During a drive of about thirty miles, through Watertown, Waltham, Weyland, Weston, and Bellington I saw and heard to-day at least twenty Bluebirds, all ♂, all singing. Some one has truly said that the Bluebird at this season is a voice rather than a being. It is heard now here, now there, wandering overhead, rarely traceable to its source. What an exquisitely rich, tender strain! The bird when singing on wing often flies in a zig zag course working its wings in

Mass. (Concord)

Sialia sialis

31.

1887

Silence in last half of May

May 31

For the past two weeks Bluebirds have been wholly silent. I have not heard one sing once during this period, although a pair are nesting in our orchard. I have seen a few others during my drives and walks but they are singularly inconspicuous during this season.

Mass. (near Concord).

32.

1887

April 7²⁰ - 12⁶

May 8² - 9⁴ - 23¹ - 26³

June 2¹ - 4² - 6¹ - 7² - 13¹ - 17¹

July 4² - 10² - 15¹ - 24¹ - 26¹

Aug 2¹ - 9¹ - 13¹ - 14¹ - 17¹

Sialia sialis.

*singing first young on wing.

are affected, but they like way
 when being on a perch (usually
 always, the leftmost twig of
 some isolated tree) it keeps
 half opening & jerking thru
 nervously as if about to fly.

Mass. (Concord)

Sialia sialis

31.

1887

Silence in last half of May

May 31

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July 4² - 10² - 15¹ - 24¹ - 26¹

Aug 2¹ - 9¹ - 13² - 14² - 17¹

Sialia sialis.

* singing first young on wing.

June 25-30, 1889.

Sialia sialis

32.

Two 33 in the Townsend, perhaps from some about Ashby, seen with young from 25 on wing. The 33 showed at H. Townsend on Feb. 28 from 21. On the 28th he saw a 2 building in an apple orchard at Ashby.

Sialia sialis

33.

Sept 10 Two 33 birds flying over the river making short calls from the tops of some tall elms. They looked very like Cedar birds under similar conditions.

Sialia sialis

33.

H. D. Thoreau

1850. Feb. 24

1857. Feb. ^{usual} 24 50° to 60° at noon1859. Feb. ^{8 or 10} 23 warm

1860. Feb. 24

1861. Feb. 27, 28 "air full of them" - mild

Birds of Bristol County, Mass.
F. W. Andros.

Sialia sialis (Linn.), Bluebird. Summer resident, common. Breeds. Often seen during open winters.

Sialia sialis

36.

W. Faxon

1886. Mar. 11

1887. Feb. 20⁽²⁸⁾ Lexington, Mar. 13 &c.
seen winter, late spring

1888. Mar. 7

1889. Mar. 10

1890. Mar. 12

1891. Mar. 8⁽³⁾

1892. Mar. 13⁽⁸⁾

Sialia sialis

37.

B. Torrey

18—. Feb. 22

1888. Feb. 26, Mar. 1, &c.

1889. Mar. 10

1890. Mar. 1, 10, &c.

1891. Jan. 3, 30, Feb. 1, 4, 20, Mar. 6, &c.

1892. Mar. 10

Winter Birds of Eastern Massachusetts.

38.

H. K. Job.

Last winter* was, as all know, a very cold one, and considering this I was much surprised to learn from a friend that on January 3 he met with a flock of some five or six Bluebirds near his home in Sharon. The winter before would have seemed more favorable for their occurrence.

* 1881-82 (?)

Bull. N. O. C. 3, July. 1883, p. 149.

ARRIVALS. March 1st, Bluebirds arrive;

H. D. Minot.

O. & O. VIII. May. 1883. p. 35

Winter Notes from Willsbury Mass
S. W. Denton.

* Feb. 22 and 23, I saw and heard several Blue-
birds (Sialia sialis).

O. & O. XIII. July. 1888 p. 104

The Bluebird Wintering near Boston.—On the 9th of December, 1890,⁴¹ my neighbor, Mr. E. F. Holden, reported a Bluebird in the village. I found one in the same valley on the 21st of that month, and saw it afterward at different times up to February 5. My own dates were as follows: December 21, 22, 27, 29; January 3, 30; February 1, 4, 5. On three of these occasions the bird was perched in an ash-tree beside an old barn, in which I suspected it of finding shelter. At three other times it was within a very few rods of the same spot, and at the farthest it was less than a quarter of a mile away. The casual appearance of a Bluebird here in mid-winter would not be worthy of record, but I am not aware that one has ever been reported as actually spending the winter with us. The present season, it should perhaps be added, has been exceptionally severe.—BRADFORD TORREY, Melrose Highlands, Mass.

Auk, 8, April, 1891. p. 239-240

Bds. Obs. near Sheffield, Berkshire
Co., Mass. June 17-26, '88. W. Faxon

76. Sialia sialis. BLUEBIRD.—Common.

Auk, VI. Jan., 1889. p. 46

Bds. Obs. near Graylock Mt. Berkshire
Co. Mass. June 28-July 16. W. Faxon

80. Sialia sialis. BLUEBIRD.—Rather common in the settled parts of the country.

Auk, VI. April, 1889. p. 107

Birds Known to Pass Breeding Season
nr. Winchendon, Mass. Wm. Brewster

82. Sialia sialis.

Auk, V, Oct., 1888. p. 389

Sialia sialis

Late record, Nov. 13, 1898,

E. Mass.

Ralph Hoffmann.
Belmont, Mass.

Auk, XVI, April, 1899, p. 196

Notes on the Summer Birds of Berkshire County,
Massachusetts.

Sialia sialis. Exceedingly abundant in the low country.—REGINALD
HEBER HOWE, JR., Longwood, Mass.

Auk, XIX, Oct., 1902, p. 405.

Westfield, Mass.

Sialia sialis. Early in the past winter four Bluebirds were observed in the town of Westfield, and they have since been seen in the same locality in this town many times during the months of January and February. The region adopted by these birds as their winter home was near a trolley line and the passengers in the cars were often entertained by seeing these unusual winter visitors. This is the first authenticated instance of Bluebirds wintering in the Connecticut Valley as far north as Springfield.

Auk 27. Apr-1910 p. 221.

Blue Bird

Wm. Hyde, Pawtucket, R. I., lately brought us a set, eight in number, taken by him in May, '82. It is now in our possession. O. & O. IX, Jan. 1884, p. 12

Connecticut, June, 1893.

Loxia virens

49.

June 3 3 4 5
 " 5 2 7 8 9 10 11
 " 12 13 14 15 16 17 18
 " 19 20 21 22 23 24 25

Fairfield

Saybrook

3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

Andover

Common everywhere in the State
 & breeding in the West & South
 there are highest numbers. Long
 narrow. Black legs, very much
 regular in their number at
 highest season, and the most
 healthy & feeding to winter legs
 are the best.

Portland, Ct. - W. W. Coe.

I have a bad habit of waking up about four o'clock mornings, and in Summer to keep out of mischief I "pot" around the garden until breakfast time. One morning last Spring I noticed a Bluebird flying towards the house with her bill full of dried grass. I watched her, and you would never guess where she went with it—right into the kitchen chimney. The chimney has a flat stone on top, with openings beneath. I sat down and watched the pair work most lively until the cook came down and started the fire, when, as the smoke poured out, the birds left. Well, thinks I, you have given that up as a bad job; but next morning they were at work as hard as ever. I waited for about ten days when the cook complained that the fire did not seem to work right. "It didn't draw," she said. I went on the roof and took off the stone and looked in. The chimney is not a straight one, but has what the masons call a "draw off" in it. On that ledge, as you might say, they had begun their nest and had finally nearly filled up the whole space in the chimney. In one corner was the nest as natural as life. I took a long wooden rake and carefully brought up and out the whole structure, and, if you will believe me, there was material enough to fill a half-bushel measure.

O. & O. VII. Dec. 1882. p. 183-184.

BLUE BIRDS.—In our daily drive of twelve miles we have seen Blue Birds almost every day through the past Winter, always in the morning.

Jos. M. Wade.

Norwich, Conn.

O. & O. VII, Apr. 1882, p. 112.

Hartford Notes

52.

Bluebirds observed on February 22d.

Harry T. Gattie.

O. & O. VIII. Jan. 1883. p. 8

OUR HOLIDAY BIRD.—The Bluebird may or may not be "poor," but as the old text quaintly has it he is "always with us." By the stern matter of record rigidly kept for twelve months, I find he is the only bird actually seen and noted, singly and in companies, on every one of our National and popular Holidays, as follows: New Year's, St. Valentine's, St. Patrick's, (Fish Hawk's Day,) All Fools, Fast Day, Decoration Day, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.—*J. M. W., Norwich, Conn.*

O. & O. VII. Feb. 1883. p. 15

O. & O. VIII. Apr. 1883. p. 52.

John 12th, three Bluebirds;
Chas. H. Miff. Portland, Conn.

BLUEBIRDS. As I am writing this 10 A. M. I think I hear a Bluebird, and on going to the window I see three sitting on the vane of the church across the street from the house. Now we can hardly put this down as the earliest arrival for '83, but it's certainly the latest for '82.—*W. Coe, Portland, Conn., Dec. 31, 1882.*

O. & O. VII. Mar. 1883. p. 23

Notes on the Spring Migration of Birds in the
Northern Adirondacks [Auster], New York [1901].
April 20 to 25.

Bluebird. Not plentiful.

J. A. Sterling, Brooklyn, Pa.
Auk, XIX, July, 1902, p. 208.

Birds observed in Naval Hospital
grounds, Brooklyn. G. H. Coates

20. *Sialia sialis*. BLUEBIRD. — Common; breeds.

Bull. N. O. C. 4, Jan., 1879, p. 32

Arrivals of Mig'y Birds, Spring-1886.
Central Park, N. Y. City. A. G. Paine, Jr.

March 15, *Sialia sialis*, (766). Bluebird.

O. & O. XI, July, 1886, p. 109

Birds of the Adirondack Region.
O. E. Merriam.

9. *Sialia sialis* (Linn.) Haldeman. BLUEBIRD. — Breeds sparingly.
Have seen it along the Fulton Chain and at Big Moose Lake.

Bull. N. O. C. 8, Oct, 1881, p. 226

On the Former Abundance of Certain
Species on New York Id. (1820-60)
Lawrence.

During the same month the plaintive melody of the note
of the Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) would be heard overhead from passing
flocks. This favorite species was much sought after by young gunners:
I have seen boys with long strings of them, carried in that way for the
want of a game bag.

* W. J.

Am. G. Apr. 1889, p. 202

Birds of Western North Carolina.
William Brewster.

84

102. *Sialia sialis*. BLUEBIRD.—Common, ranging up to about 4000 feet. Although often seen in the wilder portions of this region, it evidently preferred the neighborhood of towns and houses, where, unmolested by the quarrelsome House Sparrow, it bred in boxes put up for its reception and showed all that charming familiarity and confidence which once characterized our New England Bluebird.

Auk, 3, April, 1886. p.178

change here

Among the *Saxicolidae*, I have seen the Bluebird (*S. sialis*) represented, the specimen being of a light yellowish cast, though traces of its normal plumage could readily be discerned.

Bull. N. O. C. 1, April, 1876, p. 2.

ples in the National Museum collection exceed in richness of coloration the average of more northern specimens, No. 63,366, from Massachusetts, being, in fact, more intense in coloration than any of the Florida series.

	FEBS.		FEBS.
	80		80
	78		80
	75		80
	75		75
	77		75
			78

Taken by itself the label presents nothing remarkable, but tied to the leg of this particular bird it affords us one of those by no means uncommon ornithological puzzles, which, in the language of Dundreary, "no fellow can find out." The bird is in the full spring plumage of the female, without a single trace of black or ash about the head.—CHARLES WICKLIFFE BECKHAM, Washington, D. C.

Unseasonable Birds on Long Island.—1. *Galeoscoptes carolinensis*.—On December 30, 1882, while passing along one of the streets of our village—Fort Hamilton—my attention was arrested by a bird note, familiar yet strangely out of place at that season—none other than the characteristic cry of the Catbird. I caught sight of the bird a moment later, hopping about in the branches of a lilac bush in a private yard, not a dozen feet from me, so that there was no error in the identification.

2. *Oidema perspicillata*.—During a week's stay at Montauk Point, from July 15 to July 21, 1883, I saw on several occasions a flock of 'Sea Coots' floating on the ocean about 250 or 300 yards from shore. To which of the three species they belonged I could not tell. On June 12, 1884, I saw a flock of at least fifty 'Sea Coots' in the Lower New York Bay, off Coney Island, but the distance was too great to determine the species; but on the 20th of the same month, while sailing in Gravesend Bay, about two miles below Fort Hamilton, we came upon three individuals of *O. perspicillata*. We ran down to within 20 yards of them before they took wing, but as the gun had been left at home, in deference to the ladies, I was unable to secure them.

3. *Harelda glacialis*.—While yatching in North Oyster Bay, Long Island Sound, on July 12, 1884, I shot a fine male 'Old Wife.' The bird was apparently well and uninjured, and was swimming about in a lively manner as we approached. My first shot either missed or only wounded it slightly, for it instantly rose and was flying off rapidly when I killed it with my second barrel. I skinned it and could not find any marks of old wounds or other injuries. It was in full plumage and differed from the adults usually taken in this latitude by the greater amount of orange brown on the back and scapulars. The dark zone on the breast was also of a lighter shade than usual.—DE L. BERIER, 52 Broadway, New York City.

Two Additions to the Texas Avi-fauna.—I have taken in Cook County, Texas, the following: *Syrnium nebulosum alleni*, *Turdus fuscescens salicicola*.—G. S. RAGSDALE, Gainville, Texas.

Peculiar Plumage of the Bluebird. ⁷⁶

While collecting in Baltimore County last March, I shot a specimen of the common Bluebird in a very remarkable and beautiful plumage. The throat, breast and under parts were as in the common form, but the entire upper parts were a light azure-blue, paler on the head and brightest on the rump, with an intense greenish reflection in certain lights. Except that it was a little paler, the color was exactly like that of the Rocky Mountain Bluebird.—A. H. Jennings, Baltimore, Maryland.

O. & O. XI, Feb. 1886, p. 18.

Descriptions of First Plumage of Certain North Am. Bbs. Wm. Brewster. ⁷⁶

7. *Sialia sialis*.

First plumage: female. Above dull smoky-brown, unmarked on head and rump, the latter slightly paler; but marked over the interscapular region and wing-coverts by tear-shaped spots of white and pale fawn-color, these spots occupying the central portions of the feathers. Secondaries and tertiaries edged, and tipped with reddish-brown; first primary and lateral pair of rectrices with the outer webs pure white; inner primaries as in adult, but with the blue of a much lighter shade; posterior margin of eye with a crescentic spot of soiled white. Under parts, with the exception of the abdominal region, which is nearly immaculate, pale ashy-white, each feather broadly margined with dull cinnamon-brown. From a specimen in my collection, shot at Cambridge, Mass., June 8, 1874.

Bull. N. O. C. 3, Jan., 1878, p. 19.

The Singing of Birds. E. P. Bicknell.

Sialia sialis. BLUEBIRD.

This beautiful and domestic species evinces a most impressionable temperament, which responds with song to the faintest suggestion of returning spring, and with silence to the earliest foretastes of the sultriness and heat of summer. Its melody is the first that comes to us with the new year, and is of those which we earliest lose. So sensitive, indeed, is the Bluebird to the slightest vernal influence that its cheerful warbling is often sadly out of season, as when it is called forth by a mild, suggestive day in January, or even in December.

It might appear to be an open question whether these midwinter songs are those concluding autumn singing or those inaugurating the musical celebration of the spring. The truth is that they result from the over-strained imaginations of too eager lovers; and thus we get spring songs before the winter solstice.

Within the last seven years the dates of introductory songs have ranged between December 18 and February 10. According to the character of the winter, continued song may date directly from its introduction or be delayed, with occasional efforts occupying the interim, until spring becomes more assertive; but singing seems rarely or never to be postponed beyond the final winter month.

March is pre-eminently the month of song. Before April has ended their ardor has perceptibly waned, a change which progresses through May; and sometimes in this, as in the following month, singing is so infrequent that often it seems to be suspended, as it actually is in July. Sometimes no song will be heard in this month; again, isolated songs occur almost to its close.

I do not find that I have any record of the Bluebird singing in August; but undoubtedly its song is to be heard in every month of the year. From early July until about mid-September is a time of general silence; sometimes this is broken in the first week of September, sometimes not until the last of the month.

Singing seems to be rather inconstant in the fall, but usually after the second week of September the cheerful warbling that we have missed since June may occasionally again be heard until the end of the following month. But I have no November record.

Auk, I, April, 1884. p. 133.

The Bluebird as a Mimic.

BY W. E. SAUNDERS, LONDON, ONTARIO.

On March 12th, 1886, while looking for the earliest migrants in a small piece of woods about four miles west of here I saw a Bluebird in a

leafless beech, and heard him warble. Immediately before his next warbling I heard a note which appeared to come from beneath the Bluebird, which I took to be that of a Blue Jay. With the intention of making a skin of the Jay I approached, but before seeing him I heard the same note "Kay—Kay" from the same place, and on advancing closer the Bluebird flew away, warbling as he went. As he flew into an open field I saw that he went alone, but just after he reached a tree in the open I heard the same Jay note from that tree followed as before by a fraction of the Bluebird's song. To study the matter, I stayed where I was, and after listening for some time, I found that after the Bluebird had warbled from four to seven times, the next warble would be prefaced with the Jay note that had deceived me. The time taken in uttering this note was deducted from the regular song, but it was made up to the usual length of a Bluebird's song by adding the latter part of its own song, giving the impression that the bird could only take enough breath to sing a certain number of seconds, and if three fifths of that time were taken up by a Jay's note its own song had to be cut off with only the other two fifths.

Considering this as a case of mimicry, it puzzled me considerably why the Bluebird did not give the Jay note alone, or else follow it by its own complete song, and not merely by the end of it. Has any other reader of the O. & O., noticed the Bluebird posing as a mimic?

O. & O., XII, Apr. 1887 p. 61-62.

Regin. near sheet

Brief Notes.

April 30 I found a Bluebird's nest in a somewhat peculiar situation. A two quart milk can, which had been used in a cemetery to hold flowers, had been placed in the fork of a bush right side up, and the bird at this time had five eggs in it, entering and leaving the can by the top. I was somewhat curious to learn what effect a heavy rain would have on the bird; but one we had soon after, apparently had no effect as the can probably leaked, preventing the bird from being drowned out.

Rufus H. Carr, Brockton, Mass.

O. & O. Vol. 18, July, 1893 p. 107

BLUEBIRDS. A pair of Bluebirds have raised three broods, their nest being placed behind the closed half of a pair of blinds affixed to the window of an occupied room in my house, the sitting bird being in full view; their confidence was not misplaced.

F. H. Carpenter, Rehoboth, Mass.

O. & O. VIII, Dec. 1893. p. 96.

In West Newton, Mass., June 20, '81, found set of six Bluebirds in bird box.

E. H. Eaton, Woburn, Mass.

O. & O. VII, Mar. 1893. p. 24

LARGE SET OF EGGS.—April 29, '82, took a set of seven Bluebirds' eggs, and April 30 I took a set of six pure white eggs from Bluebirds of the natural color.—*W. J. Simpson, Ithaca, N. Y.*

O. & O. VII, Mar. 1893. p. 23

W. J. B. Williams, Cambridge, N. Y., found on May 27th, a Bluebird's nest containing seven fresh eggs which are now in his collection. O. & O. IX, Jan. 1894. p. 12

On the 28th of April I took a set of five Albino Bluebirds' eggs from a nest in a dead stump about eight feet up. All the eggs were perfectly fresh when blown.

Fred W. Pashley, Forest, Ont.

O. & O. XV, May, 1890 p. 77

A Remarkable Runt Egg of the Bluebird.

A set of six eggs of the common Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*) collected on May 18, 1889, in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, contains one of the most remarkable runt eggs that I have ever seen. Five of the eggs in the set are of the normal size, but the other only measures .44 x .38. When it is remembered that the average size of the eggs of this bird is .84 x .62, it will be seen how very small the runt is. The shell is considerably thicker than that of the other five, and it contained no yolk. All six of them are of the normal color, and were perfectly fresh.

J. P. N.
O. & O. XIV, Nov. 1889 p. 175

White Eggs of the Bluebird. 62

BY B. W. EVERMANN, BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA.

In reading the article by W. E. Treat, in the April ORNITHOLOGIST AND OÖLOGIST, concerning white eggs of the Bluebird, (*Sialia sialis*) it called to mind a similar experience which I had with a pair of Bluebirds not long ago.

In the spring of 1884, I put up a box in my garden, at Camden, Ind., and it was soon appropriated by a pair of these birds. On May 5th I examined the nest and found five fresh, pure white eggs. Before taking the set I put up another box near by, hoping that when robbed of the first set they would go to the second box and lay again. Scarcely had the eggs been removed when the birds began carrying nest materials into the second box. I was curious to know if this set would

also be white, and watched them carefully. On May 14th, the first egg of this set was deposited, and the set of five completed on the 18th. These too, were pure white. I left them in the nest until the 20th, to see if the set was completed, and also to learn if the eggs were fertile. Five was the full complement, and, on blowing I found them all fertile. On May 21st the birds began rebuilding in the box first used by them, but from which I had removed most of the old nest. On my return home June 1st, after an absence of ten days, I found the nest completed and three eggs in it. Two days later there were five, all pure white, as had been the other ten. I could not make up my mind to take these eggs, but left them to be hatched. The old bird began sitting June 3d. Ten days later, while working in my garden I failed to see the male about. As I was accustomed to see him almost every day, I wondered what could be wrong. The next day I watched for him but saw him not. Then I went to the scantling upon which the box was fastened and struck it, but no bird flew from the nest. Something was undoubtedly wrong. Securing a ladder I climbed to the box and there, lying in the nest, was the decaying body of the female, and beneath her the five eggs, all more or less crushed and with embryos well developed. The true explanation, I believe, suggested itself at once. The vital economy of the female had been too severely taxed; the building of three nests inside of thirty days, the loss of vital energy incident to the development of fifteen eggs in a like length of time, followed by the no less arduous and exhausting labors of incubation, all these were more than the frail organism could accomplish and she died a martyr to her maternal instinct.

O. & O. XI, Aug. 1886, p. 128-129

White Eggs of the Bluebird. 61

BY W. E. TREAT.

In the spring of 1883, a pair of Bluebirds took up their quarters in a neighbor's bird box, and by the 27th of April the female had deposited five eggs of the ordinary color. I removed three of these eggs, and in an interval of two days the same bird commenced laying again. I say the same bird for I am confident it was, as I had often made very close examinations of her. I watched the nest daily, and as I looked only at the eggs as they lay in the nest, which was in the box, and this darkened the eggs somewhat so that I could not distinguish their true color. One day I was informed by a friend that they were white, and I immediately removed the eggs, seven in number, including the two blue ones I had left there, and I found to my surprise that five of them were pure white, and were about the same size as the blue ones.

[The common Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*), is known occasionally to lay white eggs, but there has been much dispute as to whether this is a common variation in their color or not. The typical egg of this species is well known to be of a uniform light blue, and it is unusual to find eggs of varying shades of color in one nest. When white eggs are found they are all equally wanting in color in the set, and sometimes all the eggs in one nest have only the faintest tinge of blue; and they appear quite white until placed on some pure white surface, when the faint bluish tint is manifest. The absence of color is, of course, owing to want of the ordinary coloring matter, or pigment, in the parent bird, but is it a constitutional defect in the particular bird in question, or is it the result of laying a second or third set of eggs? The above instance cited by Mr. Treat, would seem to bear out the latter. No one has ever found white eggs of the Robin (*Merula migratoria*), although spotted ones have been sometimes found. Albino eggs are, as a rule, rare; but they seem to be commoner with the Bluebird than with any other species.—Ed.]

O. & O. XI, Apr. 1886, p. 53.

A set of five albino eggs of the Bluebird.

G. H. Berry, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

O. & O. Vol. 18, July, 1893 p. 99

Bluebird. Set, four or five.

O. & O. 15 Oct. 1890. p. 147

No. Eggs in Set. O. S. Brimley

Bluebird. Standard set five; the second
laying usually four. C. S. Brimley.

Raleigh, N. C.

O. & O. XVI, Jan. 1891. p. 1

Eggs at Raleigh, N. C. 1890
O. S. Brimley.

April 22. Bluebird; set of five (white eggs);
seven feet in apple tree.

O. & O. XVI, Jan. 1891. p. 10

Birds Known to Breed at Raleigh, N. C. 67
O. S. Brimley, Raleigh, N. C.

Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*). April 11 to June 20.
Eggs four or five. White eggs of this species
do not seem uncommon here.

O. & O. XIII, Mar. 1888 p. 43

(Given on authority of Prof. J. E. L. Seal, of Iowa
Agricultural College.)

The case of the Bluebird is given on hearsay, but seems perfectly authentic. A trio of these birds occupied two niches in the chimneys of the gas works at the college there, and raised two broods. The male paid equal attention to both females, often passing directly from one nest to the other, and was seen in congress with each of the females in the course of a few minutes. — ELLIOTT COUES, *Washington, D. C.*
Bull. N. O. C. 8, Jan. 1889; p. 63.

Birds of Houston, Texas, and Vicinity - H. Nehrling

8. *Sialia sialis*, *Hald.* BLUEBIRD. — A very abundant winter sojourner and a common summer resident; but not so abundant as in the Northern States, and not so familiar. Commences to breed as early as February 15. I found a nest March 6, which contained newly hatched young. A nest discovered April 29 contained four pure white eggs.

Bull. N. O. C. 7, Jan. 1882, p. 7

Birds Tioga Co, N.Y. *Edw. Loring*

22. Bluebird. This beautiful little bird is one of the earliest to arrive, making its appearance about the middle of March, and sometimes earlier. Immediately after mating, nest building commences; this is placed in a natural cavity of a tree or deserted Woodpecker's nest; it is very loosely constructed of dried grass, and is quite shallow. The eggs, four to five in number, are of a light blue color, and I believe instances have been known of their being found pure white. One set which came under my observation was found in a telegraph pole and were all nearly white and sound and the measurement of one of them is 3.4 in. by 5-8 in. Two broods are often reared in one season. As soon as the young can shift for themselves they take to the fields with their parents to search for small bugs and worms. As the last of October draws near both parents and young leave for the south.

O. & O. XV. June, 1890, p. 81

A QUEER NESTING PLACE. A few days ago, while looking over the new Slater Library building now in process of construction in this place, the foreman called my attention to a Bluebird's nest that had been placed between a window-frame and the casing. It was just out of reach, and was very near the main entrance where the workmen were going in and out, carrying brick, stone and mortar from morning till night. The female bird rarely left the nest, and then only for a short time. The nest had no covering and the bird could be plainly seen from the street. She was as confiding a specimen as I ever saw, and her confidence was not misplaced, for the workmen were very proud of their feathered protégé, and championed her cause from the first. At the date of this writing she has hatched her young and is busily engaged feeding them.

Aug. 30. I want to say that the Bluebirds of which I wrote you recently, were birds of rare firmness and pluck. As the Library building progressed, it became necessary to move the nest containing the unfledged birds, so the foreman found a small box and placed the nest and young in it, leaving it in a conspicuous place. The old birds seemed to understand the proceedings and governed themselves accordingly, finishing their labor of love and sending out into the world a family of birds that will no doubt reflect credit upon their parents.—Chas. Edw. Prior, Jewett City.

O. & O. IX. Sept. 1884. p. 115

Birds of Carroll County, Ind.
B. W. Evermann.

203. *Sialia sialis*. BLUEBIRD.—A common summer resident; a few probably remain in sheltered places throughout the winter. February 12, 1834; March 7, 1835. Until within the last ten years nearly every cleared field in this part of Indiana contained the stumps of the many trees that had been felled in clearing the land. Many of these stumps contained small hollows from three to six inches in diameter, and from one to two or three feet deep. As long as the stumps remained, these hollows were a favorite nesting place for the Bluebirds. But now that the stumps have been removed, the Bluebirds have betaken themselves to deserted woodpecker holes in trees, or to rotten fence posts.

Auk, VI. Jan., 1889, p. 30.

In the Woods at Dogwood Time.

When the dogwood (*Cornus florida*) ripens its berries in November and the nights get cold, and sometimes the days also, it is interesting to note the birds that flock around their old favorites to get a good square meal.

First and foremost hundreds of Bluebirds fly backwards and forwards between the big trees and the dogwoods, seemingly never satisfied; then all the robins in the neighborhood join in too until some festive colored man brings his musket along and scatters them. The Hermit Thrush also unites with his more noisy and numerous relatives in the repast, stray flocks of Cedarbirds, occasional Purple and Rusty Grackles, and plenty of Purple Finches add to the crowd of birds; all so far mentioned swallow the berries whole except the last, who only eat the pulp.

Pine Warblers, with an occasional Myrtle, peck away at the berries and the Golden-crowned Kinglet often joins them. Both Tufted and Carolina Tits and any Blue-headed Vireos that are about vary their insect diet with dogwood pulp. White-throated Sparrows, Snowbirds and other Sparrows also feed on them in immense numbers as also a good scattering of Yellow Hammers and Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers and a few of the other Woodpeckers also, though the *Dryobates* seem to prefer poison oak berries and the *Melanerpes* acorns.

As long as the dogwood berries last there are always plenty of birds in the woods, but when they are all gone the woods seem comparatively empty and lonesome and the collector had better try the open field or the creek woodlands.

C. S. Brimley.

Raleigh, N. C.

O. & O., XV, Feb., 1890 p. 25-26

Effects of the mild Winter of 1878 on Bird-migration. . . . John Murdock.

On December 29, while walking at a short distance from my house, in Roxbury, Mass., I was somewhat surprised to see a pair of Bluebirds (*Sialia sialis*) fly up from a fence, near at hand, and alight upon a tree not far off. There was, of course, no doubt as to their identity, as a Bluebird is not easily mistaken. This bird usually leaves us by the early part of November. On the same day, in Sharon, Mass., a friend of Mr. Ruthven Deane actually shot a Bluebird out of a small flock.

Bull. N. O. C. 3, April, 1878, p. 76.

Winter Food of Birds in the South, 77
O. S. Brimley, Raleigh, N. C.

Bluebird, (*Sialia sialis*). During October and November this species feeds entirely on Dogwood berries, but after they are all eaten, which generally happens about the first week in December, they don't seem to have any particular preferences until about the new year, when they begin to frequent the open fields, feeding on weeds, seeds and insects.

O. & O. XII, July 1887 p. 105

Proc. Linnæan Soc. of N. Y. 88-89

Mr. George B. Sennett said that Mr. Paul Babcock of New Jersey had found in his chicken coop during 'the blizzard' of last March an immense number of birds, estimated at fully twenty-five hundred, that had taken refuge there. Of these nearly one half were Bluebirds (*Sialia sialis*),

A. C. Apr. 1869, p. 197

As I was working my way along through the tangled undergrowth I noticed quite a commotion among a flock of Bluebirds, off some distance to my right. Approaching cautiously in the direction I saw a Red Squirrel sprawled on the trunk of a tall dead pine, apparently frightened out of his wits. A dozen or more Bluebirds were flying about and pecking at him, and seeming to have the greatest sport imaginable. One of the birds would dart down and snap at Mr. Squirrel's tail, and quick as a flash he would turn end for end uttering a loud bark, while another and then another would snap at it again; in this manner they kept him turning about as if on a pivot for some time, and the effect was so amusing that I laughed aloud. The squirrel tried going up the tree, but the higher he went the worse the situation grew, finally he gave a loud *squir-r-r* and scudding down the tree disappeared. The birds all lit and looked about for their victim, but Mr. Squirrel did not appear again. *Edward Tennant.*

O. & O. XIV. May. 1889 p. 76

at least, was.

Where Have the Blue-Birds Gone?
To the Editor: At this season of the year when the days begin to lengthen out and the east wind has lost much

Hamilton (Canada) Spectator
Wed. May 1, 1895. p. 5.

of its venom, I dare say many of your readers take an hour in the evening to observe the different sights and sounds which to all Canadians are associated with the advent of spring. The snow drop, crocus and daffodil are true to their time in the garden, the frogs are croaking in the marsh, the robin, phoebe, song sparrow, chipper and vesper sparrow are all here; but I wonder how many out-door observers have this year seen the blue bird? He is usually the very first of our feathered friends to arrive; even before the robin had been noticed his rich, soft notes used to be heard from the tops of the tall poplar or his bright blue mantle be seen gliding through the orchard to visit his last year's nest, and in former seasons they were by this time mated and busy preparing their summer residence.

This season they are absent. I have heard of one or two isolated individuals being seen about the end of March; but I have not seen one, and do not know of a single pair being located near Hamilton, where they used to be so generally distributed.

As it would be quite interesting to know how far their change of habit extends, and what has led to it, I hope some of your readers may be able to throw some light on the subject.

For the past few years there is no doubt that the English sparrow, by appropriating their boxes, have driven them from about our houses; still, they have been common throughout the country until this spring, when they have failed to appear.

T. McILWRAITH.
Cairnbrae, May 1, 1895.

Auk, XII, July, 1895, pp. 309-310.
Absence of the Bluebird at Meadville, Pa.—For the first time in my recollection *Sialia sialis* is noticeable for its absence, in the vicinity of Meadville, Crawford Co., Pa., for this time of the year. In referring to my note book, I find that I have observed them in this locality, every month in the year, with the exception of the month of December, in more or less numbers, they being very common during the spring, summer, and fall months. But their soft warbling notes are not to be heard this spring among those of many other happy songsters. The first that I observed

them this spring was on April 6, when I saw four, and again on April 16, when I saw two. Since then I have visited some of their most favorite haunts a number of times but have failed to note a single one. They were very common last year, lingering with us until late in November. I am inclined to believe that the exceptionally cold winter has been very hard on them, in depriving them of their food supply.

Early on the morning of March 24, 1895, a large 'bird wave,' composed of Geese, Swans, and Ducks got lost, or became bewildered by the electric lights (a dense fog prevailing in this valley at the time) and flew about the city for a couple of hours before they could get their correct bearings. There must have been thousands of them judging from the noise they made.

Of late years this is getting to be a common occurrence during their spring migrations. I have in my collection a fine specimen of the Long-tailed Duck, which I found dead on the door-step one morning, after one of these flights, it probably having flown against the house.—H. C. KIRKPATRICK, Meadville, Pa.

I remember one October day, of walking miles in the keen sharp air, and of learning many of Nature's little secrets, even though there were no birds which I had not seen thousands of times before. On this day the Bluebirds were very numerous, in flocks of from six or eight to forty or more, and some of them were yet in their striped vests and mottled gray and blue backs, which seem to be the style for summer wear among the younger portion of the community, though the older ones were truly gorgeous in blue and chestnut, even out-rivalling their appearance when they came among us in springtime. They did not sing, but sadly piped in monosyllables, and ever in the same tone, now loud and near by, and then fainter, when at a greater distance, but ever clear, like the air and the sky above them. To me this note is always associated with old pastures, scraggy grey fences, and turning leaves.

In a few weeks most of them will have gone south for the winter, as it is fashionable for most birds to do, but a few, like the unfashionable of their human neighbors, prefer to spend the season at home, for here in Massachusetts hardly any winter is without its few stray Bluebirds, and during some seasons, like the winter of 1880-81 and 1882-83, they are really plenty. In the fall these birds are, if not less suspicious, more restless, and do not stay in one place long at a time, but when spring comes they will be confiding again. Once in March I saw one perched on the "tail" of a rattling, buzzing windmill, and singing away as unconcerned as you please, and I have removed the female from her nest with my hand, and even then on being released she remained within a few feet of me.

Writing of Bluebirds reminds me of one of their articles of diet which to my knowledge is shared by only one other bird, the Box Swallow (*Icterus*). To these two the uninviting fruit of our pungent-leaved bayberry seems to be acceptable, though perhaps unequally attractive. The Swallow seems to be very fond of the berry, especially in the fall, when they cover the bushes by thousands in some places, and make an entire repast of the berries, and I have seen them in spring eating those which have survived the winter.

Bluebirds are far less frequent visitors to this bush, and I imagine that they only partake when hunger drives them to it, as I have found them eating the tallowy berries only on two or three occasions in early spring.

H. G. White.

Oct. XIV. Dec. 1889. p. 156.

Boston Transcript

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7, 1897.

Here is a letter of a sort that the Listener is not often favored with—one from the South, telling how our familiar birds are behaving down there. If comes from a professor in the Georgia School of Technology:

Dear Listener: You ask for facts in regard to the bluebirds. The vicinity of Atlanta has, in the past, been a favorite resort for the bluebirds during the winter season. Perhaps they spent December and January farther South in Georgia, but February was sure to see them in flocks in the outskirts of the city. On my way to lunch on Feb. 6, '95, the day before the terrible freeze began that destroyed so many birds, I counted seventy-six bluebirds on one telephone wire. They were as thick as swallows sometimes are at the north in August. Two days later, on my way to my office, I saw a dead bluebird, a phoebe bird, and a dear little wren that we call Jorita here, in the snow by the path, frozen stiff. In the afternoon of that bitter day a Jorita came into my office, where it was warm and comfortable, but next morning he was dead when I went to feed him.

The destruction to small bird-life by that blizzard is beyond calculation. Middle Georgia was alive with the lesser song birds at that time and they were simply wiped out of existence. I did not see another bluebird in the vicinity of Atlanta, until Nov. 1, '96. But during the latter part of last month, February, I saw quite a good many. Alas! the most that I saw at any one time were tied to a string—shot by two miserable little muckers of white boys. What is it that prompts boys, some boys, to be such desperate beasts? Were you and I such murderers? I do not know when my title has so risen as it did at the sight of those little slaughtered innocents.

But I wander. What I wanted to emphasize is the cheering fact that there are indications that the bluebirds are recovering from the ravages of that storm. It is probable that it will take but a few years for the bluebirds to regain their old-time numbers.

It is gratifying to know that the robins, also (which are treated as game birds in Georgia, and shot accordingly), have been unusually numerous here lately.

But now the robins and bluebirds have all left Georgia for the North. The robin's song is never heard here. Neither are the delicate love notes of the bluebird, for neither of them nest here.

Still, we have the mocking bird, the brown thrasher, the hermit thrush and that superb bird, the cardinal, who stay all summer.

And today the peach blossoms are a sight!

Yours very truly,

J. S. COON.

Atlanta, Ga., March 23, 1897.

THE LISTENER.

Dear Listener—Can you give some hint as to the whereabouts of the bluebird, now overdue here (twenty-five miles southeast of Boston) at least a fortnight—taking the backward spring into account? Thus far only one has appeared, and was heard on the 14th of March; after singing a little in the lonesome, plaintive way common to the species in the fall, he took himself off. The geese, with their stirring clamor, have been passing overhead; the robin is here, trying his voice; the woodpecker sounds his call on the resonant dead apple-tree limb; the woodcock, the blackbird, the swallow, and a fair chorus of frogs are present; yet some of us, to whom the bluebird is dearer than all these, are feeling really serious concerning his absence, and any knowledge of his safety will be gladly received. EUGEN A. JOSELYN.

South Hanover, Mass., April 8, 1895.

The Listener has heard of a very distinguished Massachusetts ornithologist, has seen only two bluebirds this spring, and that he has advice which lead him to believe that our bluebirds—that is, those which breed here—were killed by the unusually severe weather in the Middle States, where they winter. Another well-known ornithologist, who may be said to have had exceptional knowledge of the bluebirds this spring, and that they all had the appearance of being engaged in migrating farther north. Usually, at this date, he would have seen so many that he would not have thought it worth while to count them. He shares the belief that our Massachusetts bluebirds were destroyed by the cold in their winter quarters. They are certainly extremely scarce here this spring—to the ordinary eye and ear they are absent. It is a great pity; and yet we may hope that enough have been left "for seed," as the farmers say, and that another year or two will see them as plenty as ever.

Another bird fact should be noted: The white-breasted swallows perished this winter in great numbers in Florida and the extreme Southern States. The April number of the Auk, the ornithological journal, has from various correspondents reports of the destruction of these birds in great numbers. These are one of our most familiar swallows; they are the first to arrive in spring, and are due; indeed, the Listener's South Hanover friend seems to have seen some already. Bird lovers are likely to notice a diminution in the number of these beautiful and light-winged creatures when the time of their return is fully here.

Nothing has been said in the papers about the destruction of the bluebirds and swallows, and a great deal has been said about the loss of the Florida orange crop; and yet how much more serious a loss, to us of Massachusetts, is the killing of the birds than the killing of the oranges! All the reasonable demands of our stomachs can be satisfied without Florida oranges, but our souls will be left somewhat hungry, will they not, by an absence or scarcity of bluebirds and swallows?

The Listener knows very little about birds, but he has a distinct recollection of hearing the chickadees, peewee note in midwinter. If he is not mistaken, he has also heard it in summer. Here is another interesting letter:

Dear Listener—The article in the Saturday Evening Transcript, as to the disappearance or non-appearance of the bluebird, seems to be one of considerable interest. The bluebird is certainly uncommonly rare this spring—the reasons for which are extremely uncertain and correspondingly interesting. The writer has seen scarcely a dozen. That they have slighted us by passing farther north seems hardly probable. That birds are taking a migratory flight in a given direction is an extremely uncertain quantity, unless seen in considerable numbers, and observed with laborious care. The period of migration is controlled as much by condition of food and its accessibility, as by climatic changes. As the food of the bluebird in spring consists mainly of shelly bugs, grubs and worms, he would hardly desert our latitude, already backward in advancement, for a more northerly and less desirable one. Nor does the theory of destruction by cold weather seem hardly more feasible. Bluebirds that pass the entire season north of the Carolinas are scarce, straggling individuals. Various ornithologists have made a study of their range. Wilson, the best student America has ever produced of bird life from a naturalist's point of view, rather than that of a scientist, spent a prodigious amount of time and labor on this subject. And he is well termed the "father" of American ornithology. He records himself as unable to find a solitary individual north of Maryland as a resident in midwinter. The great mass of bluebirds pass the winter throughout the Southern States, the Bermuda and Bahama Islands, and even as far south as Mexico and Guiana, the Bahamas seeming to be their favorite winter resort. It does not seem possible that the short cold snaps at the South are responsible for the bird's extreme scarcity this spring. We must look further for some as yet inexplicable natural cause. The writer has had several inquiries, but confesses himself at a loss for a reason that is entirely satisfactory. One statement recently made is of course absurd: That by reason of extreme cold he had wandered farther south than usual, and was behindhand in his appearance. The bluebird is the most indefatigable follower of fair weather and climatic changes that we have. He could easily come from a point south of the equator within the bounds of New England in less than sixty hours.

One bird is especially plentiful in the writer's locality this spring—the cowbird. Although the Icteridae and sub-families are eminently gregarious, I remember no season when they were so super-abundant early in the season. Not having seen them mentioned elsewhere, it may be peculiar to Essex County. We ought to extend our sympathies to the birds and warblers if this handsome marauder and house-stealer is to be unusually plentiful.

South Hanover, Mass., April 15, 1895.

Boston via Hanover, April 17, 1895.

The Listener's note the other day about the absence of the bluebirds has called out several interesting letters. One of the most significant as well as the most painful, is the following:

April 14, 1895.

Dear Listener—When I was in Washington a few weeks ago an ornithologist at the Smithsonian Institution told me that in passing through the Washington Market he counted three hundred bluebirds on the stalls. They had been stripped of their feathers, but to his keen eye were unmistakable. That was but one stall. There are many stalls where birds are sold in that market. The boys of that neighborhood bring them in by the basketful. Tell Mr. Joselyn of South Hanover that there is where some of our beautiful bluebirds have gone, and that he is quite right in "feeling really serious" about the matter. It should be a national sorrow that song-birds—or any wild birds for that matter—are killed for fashion or for food. I. C. B.

In most of the States, according to a late report of the committee of the American Ornithological Union on bird protection, excellent laws, much like that of Massachusetts have been adopted to protect song-birds. It is against the law in Massachusetts to kill bluebirds, and it is not in the District of Columbia. Congress has been even more remiss in its duties than is generally supposed. The following, on the same subject, is from a gentleman who will not need any introduction to "bird people."

My Dear Listener—I think your South Hanover friend need not yet give up hope of a visit from the bluebirds, for all the birds are late in coming to Massachusetts this spring, influenced, probably, by the cold weather at the South. A week ago I searched the woods and fields between Arlington and Winchester, and all the birds I saw or heard did not amount to a dozen—three crows, one flicker, one blue jay, one pecker, three song sparrows, two robins and one red-winged blackbird complete the list. Very few bluebirds have been seen in this vicinity. On Saturday last I met but three in a three-hours tramp, and robin and song sparrows are conspicuously scarce.

It is probable that Mr. Hugh Smith, who contributed to the April Auk the report of the destruction of swallows in Florida during the cold snap of last February, is correct in supposing that the birds died from starvation and not from the direct influence of the low temperature. It is doubtful if birds suffer much from the cold so long as they can obtain food with which to keep up a supply of nutrition. A bird's blood is extremely hot, and its circulation is more rapid than that of any other animal. This leads to rapid combustion, which accounts for the large amount of food that a bird's stomach demands. But food being supplied, its blood product, in being heated, is carried to every part of the body, and thus reinforced the birds have the advantage, and thus reinforced the birds have a decided advantage over Jack Frost—they can laugh at his worst.

I have frequently met delicate-looking birds in my winter rambles in places where the temperature was extremely low, and the birds have displayed a supreme indifference to the bleak and wintry weather. I have seen a New England chickadee, a cowbird, a coterie of chickadees, nuthatches and kinglets astonished me by their meriment and activity; for the thermometer hanging outside my tent registered 23° below zero.

Mr. Haquerup, who spent several winters in Greenland, wrote me that the house sparrows, that had been introduced there, seemed to suffer little from the extreme cold, though they did suffer from cold rains when accompanied by high wind.

I wonder if Miss Shattuck is correct in thinking the peewee song of the chickadee a "spring note." I have heard it in the spring—the winter months, and seldom or never during the hot weather, so concluded it was a winter song. Yours truly,

MONTAGUE CHAMBERLAIN.
Cambridge, April 13, 1895.

Rec'd new sheet.

85.

London Zoologist, April, 1891, (Vol XV no 172)
pp. 154, 156

Captive birds bred in aviary in England.
Account of feeding young (by regurgitation) copulation
etc. An important paper.

Sialia sialis

139. The food of the Bluebird (*Sialia sialis*, L.). By S. A. Forbes.
Ibid., pp. 218-218, 231-234.— Detailed report of the examination of the
stomachs of 86 Bluebirds, with results rather unfavorable to its usefulness
as a destroyer of insects. **Amer. Entomologist, New Ser. I**

86

The Oologist. 1583. Very Late Nesting. By Charles A. Keeler. *Ibid.*, p. 12.— *Sialia*
sialis, Oct. 26, at Milwaukee. **Auk, VII. Jan. 1890. p. 47.**

87.

1991. [Notes on *Sialia sialis* and *Tyrannus tyrannus*.] By W. C.
Ransburg. 'The Hoosier Naturalist,' Vol. I, No. 1, Aug., 1885, p. 5.

88.

For. & Stream, Vol. XX

611. Ohio Bird Arrivals. By A. Hall. *Ibid.*, No. 5, p. 85.— Gives
dates of arrival of the Bluebird for five years at East Randolph, O., etc.

89.

The Oologist. 1626. A Curious Nesting Place. By R[eu]ben] C. M[oorman]. *Ibid.*,
p. 176.— *Sialia sialis*. **Auk, VII. Jan. 1890. p. 45.**

90.

138. Bluebirds feeding on parasitic and predaceous Insects. By S. A.
Forbes, with editorial comment. *Ibid.*, pp. 204, 205. **Amer. Entomologist, New Ser. I**

91

137. Ichneumon from Stomach of Bluebird. By S. A. Forbes, with
editorial comment. *Ibid.*, p. 203. **Amer. Entomologist, New Ser. I**

92.

1660. The "Wise Bluebird." By Olive Thorne Miller. *Ibid.*, No.
360, Oct., 1887, pp. 455-460. **Atlantic Mon.**

93.

439. Curious Nesting Places. By W. W. Coe. *Ibid.*, pp. 183, 184.—
Bluebirds building in a chimney, Robins in a Martin box, etc. **O. & O. Vol. VII**
a note on Bluebirds feeding on the berries of the Virginia Creeper (p. 556),
by Henry Gillman. **Amer. Naturalist, Vol. 10. Sept.**

94.

95.

135. Larvæ from Stomach of Bluebird. *Ibid.*, p. 201.— Editorial re-
marks on specimens transmitted by S. A. Forbes of Normal, Ill.

96.

Amer. Entomologist, New Ser. I
465. Curious Instances in the Breeding Habits of the Bluebird. By
A. M. Reynolds. *Ibid.*, XV, p. 478. **Amer. Naturalist,**

97.